



The Steeple News

First Baptist Church of Waukesha
247 Wisconsin Avenue, Waukesha, WI 53186
www.firstbaptistwaukesha.com
"Join Us on the Journey"

February 2012



Dear Friends,

After experiencing the warmest Christmas and New Year in recent memory, we've suddenly been hit

with what appears to be normal winter conditions. Piles of snow all around, temperatures near or below zero, and people trudging over ice to get everywhere. But what's striking to me is the effect this change has on the mood of the people who live here. People have responded by staying home, economizing, and generally being less social. Part of that reaction is due to the inconvenience of having to deal with bitter cold and difficult travel. But part of it is a natural reaction to winter - a sense of isolation, as loss of independence, and a feeling of being disconnected. Think about it: the Badgers lost, the Packers lost, and the Bucks don't look so good. I was surprised at how many of my younger friends decided not to spend time together, or with me, as a result. While we try to make the most of winter in Waukesha with our yearly "Janboree", there is also a sense of loss, especially after the holidays are over.

That sense of loss also tends to translate into the realm of faith; since people in general experience faith as a group, and not only as individuals, as we are so often told, this sense of isolation includes a loss of hope. Winter becomes a metaphor for the way our society relates to God, either consciously or

unconsciously, in the minds of many people. The truth is that the Bible is full of stories where people felt isolated from God. That sense of isolation had a profound effect on the way they perceived the world and how they understood God to be relating to them at a given moment in history. Much of the Old Testament is written from the standpoint of a people who were either enslaved and wondering why God wouldn't free them or people who were taken captive and wondering why God allowed their captors to maintain control over them. The New Testament is written partly as a response to the general thought that God had not spoken to the world in hundreds of years. People wondered if God would ever speak to them again.

This sense of isolation is toxic, and it leads to any number of unhealthy responses. One healthy response is to try harder than ever to reconnect with people, whether or not they're people of faith. When we do so, we experience God through that other person, and we learn more about what God is saying to us. Have someone over. Invite them out for coffee. I went with a parishioner to the

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hockey game last week and it made all the difference in the world.

We also need to take this time to develop personal spiritual disciplines. We should not only read the Bible, but we should take this extra time at home to read about it, to understand it in context, to get a deeper sense of its meaning. While you may not want to miss the latest episode of "Celebrity Apprentice" or "The Bachelor", try to make some time this winter to understand your favorite book of the Bible. Maybe read a study of how the Bible speaks to a particular issue of interest to you. It's always better if you read more than one.

Make the most of this time. It doesn't have to be a dark, depressing time of the year. It is whatever we make it. So make it a time of spiritual growth.

God bless

Pastor Jim

Upcoming Events

Luv 'n Lasagna

The Board of Diaconate invite you to their annual Luv 'n Lasagna Dinner on Saturday, **Feb. 11** at 6:00 PM. A delicious Lasagna dinner will be served, and our talented praise band will provide the music for the evening. All are welcome!

Ash Wednesday Dinner & Service

Our February Catered Wednesday Dinner will be served on **Feb. 22** (Ash Wednesday) beginning at 6:00 PM. Menu to be announced. After dinner, we hope you will stay and attend a brief Ash Wednesday service, beginning at 6:30 PM. Please join us to start our Lenten Season with supper & worship on Feb. 22!

Caring Opportunities

Love Bags

The Bag Ladies currently are working on tote bags for the Jericho Road Love Bag Project. This project has two purposes. The first is to provide re-usable tote bags to people using the Food Pantry and/or the Hope Center. More importantly, each bag will have personal hygiene products which people with limited funds are often unable to purchase for themselves. When you are

shopping, if you see a good deal on deodorant, tooth brushes and toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc. please buy a few extras and bring them to church for the tote bags. We will have a collection box in the Merrill Room. We hope to have bags ready to be distributed by Easter (April 8). And, as always, thanks for your generous support of this project!

Bag Ladies next meet Feb. 11 at 9:00 AM.



Prayer Ministry

Lifting up the needs of our congregation is a vital ministry, and we invite you to consider participating in our prayer ministry. We are re-organizing the existing Prayer Chain (phone calls) and adding a new Email Prayer Ministry group. If you would be interested in participating in either Prayer Ministry group, sign up on the sheet in the Merrill Room, or contact Kim at the church office.

Loaves & Fishes 2012 Dates

Our congregation will be preparing & serving the Hope Center's Loaves & Fishes meal on these two Sundays: **Feb. 26 & Oct. 21**. If you are interested in helping with this meal ministry, please contact Glenice Baumgartner, (262) 542-8810.



FEBRUARY

February Calendar

Thursday, Feb. 2 *Groundhog Day*

9:30 AM Thursday Workday

Saturday, Feb. 4

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM Seminary Class, FBC

3:30 PM Praise Band at Linden Ridge

Sunday, Feb. 5

9:30 AM Worship & Communion

10:45 AM Bd. of Missions meeting

11:00 AM Sunday School

Tuesday, Feb. 7

10:00 AM Bible Study

11:00 AM Wellness Committee meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 8

6:15 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb. 9

9:30 AM Thursday Workday

4:00 PM Worship Committee meeting

Saturday, Feb. 11

9:00 AM - Noon Bag Ladies

6:00 PM Luv 'n Lasagna

Sunday, Feb. 12

8:30 AM Bd. of Diaconate

8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:30 AM Worship (choir sings)

11:00 AM Sunday School

Tuesday, Feb. 14 *Valentine's Day*

8:30-11AM Outreach Nurse at FBC

10:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday, Feb. 15

6:15 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb. 16

9:30 AM Thursday Workday

Sunday, Feb. 19

9:30 AM Worship

11:00 AM Sunday School

12 Noon Advisory Board meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 21

10:00 AM Bible Study

12 noon March Steeple News deadline

Wednesday, Feb. 22 *Ash Wednesday*

6:15 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:00 PM Catered Wednesday Dinner

6:30 PM Ash Wednesday service

Thursday, Feb. 23

9:30 AM Thursday Workday

Sunday, Feb. 26

9:30 AM Worship

11:00 AM Sunday School

Tuesday, Feb. 28

8:30-11AM Outreach Nurse at FBC

10:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday, Feb. 29 *Leap Year Day*

6:15 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

Leap Year Day



LEAP YEAR

How will you spend your "extra day" this year? It's Leap Year and the Disney company has recently been running ads inviting people to spend their "extra day" at a Disney park. While that would be fun, we challenge you to instead spend at least a little time on your "extra day" in God's presence on Feb. 29. Here's some ideas... read a passage in your bible, read a devotional, spend time in prayer, listen to some contemporary Christian music. You may find your burdens a little lighter, and a smile on your soul. *Thanks be to God!*

Wellness News

Next Meeting: Feb. 7 at 11:00 AM

From Our Outreach Nurse...

It is good to be able to be at First Baptist for 2 days a month as a Community Outreach Nurse. I have already felt the warmth of welcome from this community! The Community Outreach Nurse program with ProHealth Care focuses on those who have no insurance or have high deductible insurance and therefore are underserved by their insurance. The goal of the program is to empower patients and decrease barriers to health care access.

The major difference between my role as a Community Outreach Nurse and the role of a Parish Nurse is that I will not be involved in the 'church life' per se (meetings, committees, etc). What remains the same is that I will continue to 'case manage' - helping clients or their families find resources low cost or free health care (doctor, dentist, counseling, eye glasses, medications/prescriptions), and assisting/coaching to help them cope with chronic disease or a new diagnosis.

I will be here at First Baptist the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month usually from 8:30-4:30. During that time I will make follow up calls and home visits as needed. I will do my best to be 'on site' from 8:30-11 whenever possible. If you WANT to see me, it's best to call and schedule that time with me. The BEST way to reach me is my work cell 262-613-5555 or call the church office and ask them to contact me.

-- Leann Panek

Heart Disease Prevention Class

Leann Panek, our Outreach Nurse, will be hosting three of ProHealth Care's upcoming Heart Disease presentations in the area.

Feb. 7, 6-7pm, Waukesha State Bank (next to Culver's) in Sussex (W249 N6688 State Hwy 164)

Feb. 15, 9-10 am, Regency Senior Community in New Berlin (13750 W. National Ave) please use Filedpointe entrance off of Sunnyslope.

Feb. 16, 6-7PM, Regency Senior Community in Muskego (W181 S8540 Lodge Blvd.)

You may register for any of these presentations by calling 262-928-2745.

February Birthdays

- 2 Samantha McCullough
- 3 Barbara Stillwell
- 4 Tami McCullough
- 6 Karl Ehr, Hazel Riemer
- 9 Rosemary Walk
- 11 Eli Mendez
- 18 Sharon Stark
- 19 Brady Heisman, Josh Hilgendorf, Charlotte Range, Keegan Range
- 20 Kay Kenealy
- 21 Bill Goeman
- 23 Jeanne (Stieglitz) Frye
- 24 Marlene Lansford
- 26 Emma Carlson
- 27 Susan Fogelstrom
- 28 Tina Ettinger, Marcia Molsbee, Linda Neshek

Anniversaries

- 28 Bill & Carol Bell

Music Notes

The Chancel Choir will rehearse on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 8:45 AM, and will sing during worship that morning.

Are you a fan of our Praise Band? Here are some upcoming performances:

Feb. 4 - Linden Ridge, Mukwonago, at 3:30PM

Feb. 11 - Luv 'n Lasagna Dinner at our church at 6:00 PM, all are welcome.

Missions Updates

Coming in March... America for Christ Offering begins March 4.

Underwear Tree Update... 405 underwear and sock items were recently given to the Hope Center to distribute to their clients in need. Thank you to all who so generously donated!!

Prayer List

Family of Bill Provo, Bill (surgery & recovery), Bill Goeman, Bruce (employment), Carol (cancer), Carrie (breast cancer), Cheryl (uncle passed away), Dale (cancer), family of Earlene Pfeifer, Edna Mullins, Eli & Berta Mendez, family of Gretchen F. (Bahr family), Helen, Jerry Creek (recovery), Karen (cancer), Lois Jones, Mark Maile (kidney transplant), Mark Mohr (recovery), Nancy (hospice), Paul Wellerritter (stroke), Rick Tilley, Ruby Smith (broken hip), Sharon (recovery from knee surgery), Steve (rehab), Tami's sister Kim (finished radiation, recovery), Terry (new granddaughter), ABC of Wisconsin, Our Pastor & his family, Our Shut-Ins, End to Terrorism, Financial Crisis, Food Pantry, Our Children, Our Troops & their families,

Federal Deficit, Unemployment, Israel/Gaza, Pakistan, Libya, Somalia, Iran

Recipe Box

This recipe was recently served at our Catered Wednesday Dinner with rave reviews. Thanks to Carol Bell for sharing her recipe with us.

SWEET POTATO PUFF

2 large sweet potatoes, cooked & peeled

1/2 cup milk

3/4 cup sugar (or 1/2 cup)

2 eggs

1/3 cup butter or margarine

1/2 tsp. nutmeg

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Place potatoes in bowl and wire whip at speed 2 for 30 seconds or mash really well. Add milk, sugar, eggs, butter, nutmeg and cinnamon. Beat well for 1 minute. Spread into 9 inch buttered pan or baking dish. Bake 400 degrees for 20 minute or until set. Spread Crunchy Praline Topping (below) over hot dish, if desired, and bake an additional 10 minutes.

Crunchy Praline Topping

1/3 cup butter

3/4 cup cornflake cereal

1/2 cup chopped nuts

1/2 cup brown sugar

Knitting Lessons

Our talented knitter, Sally DeQuardo, is offering to teach the kids of our congregation to knit. If your child is interested, please speak with Kathy Sampson for more information.



Our Church Family

Notes of Thanks

Dear First Baptist Church,
Thank you so much for the generous scholarship that I was given. The money will be of great benefit in paying for tuition and books! I am very grateful for First Baptist's support of my continued education!
Thank you again,
Lisa A. Heisman

Dear Friends at FBC,
Thank you so much for all the cards expressing love and concern. I'm looking forward to joining you as I do miss all of you. PS I enjoyed reading the symbols of Christmas presentation by the children. God's blessing to all of you,
Janet Mueller

To the congregation of FBC,
Thank you for the recognition and generous gift. I truly enjoy serving your congregation. It has been a blessing for me. With God's Love, *Karen Pearson*

Dear Friends,
It was wonderful to join you all in worship on January 15th. Thank you for the kind recognition and for the generous gift. It is an honor and a blessing to serve you.
In Christ, *Kim Turmel*

Deaths

Earlene Pfeifer, longtime church member, passed away on Jan. 15. Her funeral was held at Cesarz, Charapata, Zinnecker on Jan. 22. Please keep the Pfeifer family in your prayers.

Gretchen Bahr Frueh, daughter of former FBC pastor, Dr. Dwight Moody Bahr and his wife Dorothy Sharp Bahr, died on Dec. 31, 2011. She lived in Lakewood Ranch, Florida.

Upcoming Dates...

- Feb. 11 - Luv 'n Lasagna
- Feb. 19 - Advisory Board meeting
- Feb. 21 - March Newsletter Deadline
- Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday
- Apr. 8 - Easter Sunday

First Baptist Church

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Our Staff:

Rev. Dr. Jim Carlson (ext. 102)	Senior Pastor (jim@firstbaptistwaukesha.com)
Juan Diego Arcila	Hispanic Minister
Kim Turmel (ext. 101)	Administrative Assistant (kim@firstbaptistwaukesha.com)
Karen Pearson	Pianist/Organist
Diane Bennett	Bookkeeper
Leann Panek	Community Outreach Nurse
Ada Inzunza	Nursery Caregiver
Salvador Martinez	Custodian