

# FELLOWSHIP BUILDER

The Newsletter of the  
First Baptist Church of Beloit, WI

March 2010



THERE IS BUT ONE  
LORD  
*Jesus Christ...*

1 CORINTHIANS 8:6, NIV

*“Growing Spiritually  
as Individuals and as a Church”*

# Ministers Message

## ***The Fellowship Builder***

I would like to use part of this space to explain to you the changes that will be taking place with the delivery of this newsletter. The Church Council voted unanimously at their February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to change the way that *The Fellowship Builder* is delivered. You will have three choices of delivery: (1.) Via the internet (2.) You may pick up a paper copy on Sunday in the narthex. (3.) You may have it mailed first class to your home for an annual subscription rate of \$10. Members in nursing/assisted living homes and shut-ins would receive it by mail at no cost. The new delivery system will save us a significant amount of money and bring us more into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. You will receive a letter explaining the options and how to sign up for your choice. The new delivery system will start in June.

### Lenten Worship Services

The theme for our services is “A Lenten Journey of Discovery”. The services will have unique music and will center in on one question. The services are on Wednesday evening at 7:00PM.

February 24<sup>th</sup> – Who Am I?

March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Who Do I Want To Be?

March 10<sup>th</sup> – How Do I Make Decisions?

March 17<sup>th</sup> – How Do I Change?

March 24<sup>th</sup> – How Do I Stay Changed?

The theme for Maundy Thursday will be The Upper Room. We will gather in Fellowship Hall for a light supper of soup and crackers and then I will share reflections from that fateful night. We will conclude with communion. Join us for this unique candle-light service that will touch your heart and mind.

### Lent- A Time of Self-Discovery

Have you ever wondered who you really are? We usually define ourselves with our name, our parents, our birth-city, where one works, or by what one likes to do. These are the easiest ways to define ourselves, but they really don't answer the question of whom we really are. Peel away our public face and what is left?

The journey that Jesus took during Lent was one of incredible ups and downs. Although he knew who he was and what his mission was he still said to God “If this cup may be passed”. He stayed true his purpose, even in the midst of denial and betrayal. Although the issues we face pale in comparison to those that Jesus faced, it should give us some comfort that he too knew that people can let us down and that life is not always fair. In the midst of our faith journey, we need to be nurtured by his words and reflect on his life.

My prayer is that we can experience a “shower on the inside”. Just as water cleanses our body, so “The Word” can cleanse our inner selves. Despite our failings, mistakes, and shortcomings we can become new in Christ. It is a journey however that each one of us must take by ourselves- others can be on the path but we must take the steps. Lent is a great time to start your journey, step by step and in the process changing the systemic way that we live – A time that produce life-altering results. “Come to me, all you who are ...”

# Sermon Summary

## “Got Religion”

**Text:** Luke 5.1-11

**Commentary:** This passage relates Jesus calling his first disciples. Jesus is standing on the shores of Lake Gennesaret preaching to the people and when he finishes he asks Simon to row the boat out further to catch some fish. Simon did not want to fish again, but he followed the Master's command and he caught so many fish that his net broke. Jesus then made the now famous statement that "I will make you fishers of men". Jesus calls Simon Peter and brothers James and John to become disciples. The most telling line is that "they left everything and went with Jesus". In essence, Jesus asked the trio if they "got religion?" The answer was "no", but from then on they had it.

### Major Points

- 1. The first part of this forms a question with the word "got" that Simon, James, and John and you and I have to answer- Got religion?**
  - Ad campaign for milk asked "Got milk"? It was a successful campaign because it focused in on the issue.
  - Got religion? – This also focuses in on the issue. If we truly have religion it should be reflected in how we live.
  - If we hear in general conversation that someone "got religion", it usually means that the person changed their ways and became a different person.
  - Some people have been fortunate to know Jesus their whole life, while others came to him later. When you "get" something, it means that you understand it. We don't always get it but we need to try.
- 2. Simon, James, and John had no idea how much their lives were going to change with their new faith. - They went from fishermen, a very honorable trade, into a new occupation which required all the skills that they possessed. In the end, they would give their life for their beliefs in Jesus.**
  - When our faith really becomes a part of who we are, our life changes as well.
  - A skeptic might ask how does one's life change? We now understand how to treat others. We now realize that life is not all about me. We stop negative behaviors that can cause serious problems. We start to feel better about ourselves ("Create in me a clean heart".) We are better able to face the difficulties of life. We expect less from others and more from ourselves. We become the person that always wanted to be. If you don't feel these things then you still have room to grow.
- 3. Our religion is not to be a pious feeling of superiority but rather a humble understanding of what we are trying to become.**
  - We don't throw our faith in the face of others, rather we share it in a special way so that others will want to have what we have.
  - We stop judging people, we stop the petty gossiping, we are happy for others, we see the "big picture" of life and we start to understand our part in it.
  - Simon, James, and John were part of a group that didn't always understand what Jesus told them. They were a work in progress, much like you and I.
  - Our religion should serve as the basic foundation for our systemic response to life. It should serve as our understanding of good and evil, right and wrong, and as the way to treat others. Got religion?

## MARCH MEETINGS

**Wednesday Bible Study** – meets weekly from 6:45-7:45 PM in the Church Gathering Room

**Rachel Circle** – Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:15 PM at church. Hostess: Lucile Smith

**Ruth Circle** – Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30 AM at church. Hostess: Marilyn Massa.

**Martha Circle** – Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:30 PM at church. Hostess: Char Saunders

**BYKOTA** – Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at Church.

**AB Women's Ministry** – Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM Sharing of the Bread.

### Board Meetings:

All Meetings at Church unless otherwise noted

**Christian Education Bd**– Monday March 1, 6:30 PM

**Church Council** – Monday, March 8, 7:00 PM

**Diaconate** – Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 PM

**Missions Board** – Sunday, March 14, 8:30 AM

**Music Board** –

**Trustee Board** – Sunday, March 14, 8:30 AM

### COMMUNION SERVERS for March

Connie Van Galder, Donna Hutchinson, Barb Bach,  
Vivian Parker, Ron Parker, Carol Egleston

### COFFEE HOUR SERVERS for March

March 7 Macted Family  
March 14 Hayden Family  
March 21 Ruth Circle  
March 28

### TRUSTEES for the month of March

March 7 David Parr  
March 14 Gordon Alexander  
March 21 Tamara Mixon  
March 28 Dennis Allen

**Trustee Area Assignments**

Each Trustee has been assigned an area of the church to be responsible for, please contact the appropriate Trustee with your concerns. A list of the Trustee Area Assignments is posted on the Narthex and office bulletin boards.

**Church Office**

April Fellowship Builder information should be in the church office by Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Recycle your Inkjet Cartridges** - Please save your empty inkjet cartridges. We will turn them in for credit towards office supplies for our church. You may put your empty inkjet cartridges in the "Deposit" box under the hall table by the office door. Thank you.



March 13<sup>th</sup> turn your clocks AHEAD one (1) hour before going to bed!

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**CIRCLE OF CONCERN** – Carl Brehm, Helen Collings, Dorothy Davis, Doris Griffin, Betty Hanson, Al Huffman, Marjorie Jackson, Teri Kinsella, Ryan Monahan, Harold Neitzel, Helen May Olsen, Lynae Rothe, Deb Rotschka, Ricky Thompson, Shirley Welsh, Jan Wenman, and Craig West.

Our prayers for Jason Burnett and all people serving in the military.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Elbert Coutts who passed away January 29<sup>th</sup>. May his family and friends feel the love of the Lord and friends during this difficult time.

**2010 Worship Bulletin Recognition** – To purchase a Sunday bulletin(s) in memory or honor of a loved one or a special occasion. Dates are available throughout the year. Please fill out the white form that is on the narthex table and leave it in the office with your check for \$15 in the tray on the back counter labeled Office Administrator. Kathie will notify you the date(s) you have chosen are taken. **If there is a specific date you would like be sure to request it early.**



**Coffee Hour** - Do you enjoy the wonderful fellowship in the Gathering Room following our worship service? If so, would you be willing to provide refreshments for this time of renewal just once during the coming year? Perhaps your family has a special occasion you would like to honor. Thanks to all who have done so in the past. Thanks to American Baptist Women and the church boards, committees and groups who share regularly. Several Sundays from May through December are available. Please call Kathie, 365-8455 or Sandy, 752-0095 if you are willing to help. Thanks to all.



**First Baptist Church Radio Outreach**

Rev. Gene's radio program entitled "Pulpit Talks" airs on WGEZ (1490 am) on Sunday mornings from 8:00 -8:30 AM. Talks may also be heard at our website [www.firstbaptistbeloit.org](http://www.firstbaptistbeloit.org) Please consider a gift to support our radio ministry (mark radio in the memo).

**CHURCH EVENTS**



Lenten Services are on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM. The theme this year is "A Lenten Journey of Discovery".

- February 24<sup>th</sup> – Who Am I?
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Who Do I Want To Be?
- March 10<sup>th</sup> – How Do I Make Decisions?
- March 17<sup>th</sup> – How Do I Change?
- March 24<sup>th</sup> – How Do I Stay Changed?

Maundy Thursday service "The Upper Room" will be Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM. We will begin with a light supper of soup and crackers than Rev Gene will share reflections from that fateful night. This candle-light service will conclude with communion.

**Rachel Circle** will meet on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:15PM at church. Hostess is Lucile Smith. Carol Egleston will be doing devotions.

**Ruth Circle** will meet on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30 AM at church. Hostess is Marilyn Massa. Donna Hutchinson will be doing devotions.

**Martha Circle** will meet on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:30 PM at church. Hostess is Char Saunders. Char will be doing Devotions.

**American Baptist Women's Ministry** invites all women to come the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Sharing of the Bread** at First Baptist Church on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM. This is an ecumenical outreach event for the entire city. A wonderful program is planned featuring Sister Joselda Kuhle of St. Jude's Parish speaking on "An Extraordinary Life". She is an admired and well known person in our community. You won't want to miss this opportunity to enjoy some great breads, fellowship and an inspiring speaker. If you would like to attend, please make your reservation by March 10<sup>th</sup> by contacting Kathie in the church office, 365-8455.



**Church Women United** will be meeting for World Day of Prayer at First Baptist Church on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM. Refreshments will follow in the Gathering Room. All women are welcome.



30 Hour Famine will be March 12-13. Beginning at 6:00 PM on Friday, March 12 and concluding on Saturday at 5:00 PM.

Youth Group continues to collect cans. Please contact Kent Maxted, 608-751-2886, if you have cans to donate.

### **A Little Trivia**

#### ***The Full Armor of God***

*“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground . . .” Ephesians 6:13*

Fill in the blanks:

1. Belt of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Breastplate of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Feet fitted with \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Shield of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Helmet of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Sword of \_\_\_\_\_.

(Answers on last page of Builder)

## COMMUNITY



*“Lord, when did we see you a stranger and welcome you into our homes or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you? I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me.”* Mathew 25: 40

Our week with Hands of Faith was a success and we were able to minister to three very large families during the week. I would like to thank Jody Reetz and Una Schultz for spending an evening at the shelter and Carol and Janice Egleston for providing a meal. Also, I would like to thank Brian and Leslie Jones and Dakota and Hunter for providing a meal and spending the evening with our guests and also to Jim, Pat and Mary Clowes for providing a meal and for Jim spending the evening. Finally, a special thank you to Pat Clowes for doing the laundry after several of our rotations. Your donations from the clothesline and the support we receive during the week provides comfort for many families during very difficult times in their lives. It is our desire and prayer that each person that must use the shelter will be reaffirmed in faith. God Bless you. Brenda Allen



On March 21<sup>st</sup> the Mission Board will be asking for your help to connect, care, and celebrate with willing hands by contributing to the America for Christ Offering 2010. America for Christ monies aid Christ-centered ministries that are changing lives in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. This help includes working with Children in Poverty initiatives, helping refugees, delivering evangelical instruction, and much more. Our church's goal for this mission is \$1500. Special envelopes can be found in the pews for your convenience. We are Americans for Christ.

### ***Miracle***

by Darlene Blackman

*Sometimes we get discouraged,  
When things don't turn out right,  
We struggle so to work it out  
With all our fleshly might.  
When we're backed up in a corner  
And nothing's worked we've tried;  
We know the only hope for us  
Is a miracle from God.  
Friend, I don't know why it is  
But this I surely know,  
The miracle you need will come  
When to Him you go.  
He'll work His will in perfect time  
So that when you tell the story,  
There'll be no doubt t all who hear  
That the Lord gets all the glory.*





## Library Corner by Jana Maxted

The parlor houses the books for adults; High School students and teenagers are located in the middle school classroom; Grade school and preschool books are located on the bookcase across from the nursery.

Check out procedure: Each book has a card in it which you can remove, sign, and place in the small file box. You can keep the book for as long as you like. When you return the book, place adult books in the basket in the Parlor all other age groups place on an empty bookshelf downstairs. This same procedure applies to movies/videos available for check out.

### *For Adults:*

In his Book, **Respectable Sins**, Jerry Bridges challenges us to look more closely at ourselves and what we have come to tolerate as Christians. What sins are you willing to accept in yourself? Anger? Jealousy? How about ungratefulness? Bridges offers the reader Bible based hope and reminds us of God's grace as the best way to overcome what you might recognize in yourself as self destructive, insidious sins.

### *For Teens:*

Lurlene McDaniels writes about medical tragedies that happen to teens. Her stories are heart wrenching and moving. Not everyone in her stories survives, but in her stories you will find courage, love, and strength. We have a number of her books in our teen library. Check it out!

### **Answers for A Little Trivia - *The Full Armor of God***

1. Belt of TRUTH.
2. Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS.
3. Feet fitted with READINESS.
4. Shield of FAITH.
5. Helmet of SALVATION.
6. Sword of THE SPIRIT.