



The Visitor

A newsletter for members and friends
of First Baptist Church, Madison, Wisconsin

No.03

February 6, 2012

Vol. 55

Dear Friends,

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote those phrases which stir and guide me still. He observed, "We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. We are made to live together." As we give increasing attention to our church as a community of faith within the larger community of the world, it is vital for us to take notice and celebrate all the ways our lives weave together into this garment of destiny. Here is my list of what I see today:

--I find myself rejoicing in how our new gathering space is enriching our life together. On Sunday mornings, I watch people gathering in animated conversations both before and after worship. Meanwhile, our sanctuary has become a quiet, meditative, prayerful place where people gather to rest into the great silence of holiness. Our friendships deepen while our souls soar. It is a thrill to watch.

--A further aim for our gathering space is that we would become a center for our neighborhood. This is already happening as a neighborhood environmental sustainability group has begun meeting here and the city has scheduled a Hoyt Park Neighborhood Association here as well. Bless be these ties that bind us to that larger community.

--Tonight, our Monday renewal group will begin studying and exploring the life implications of the book Twelve Steps to a More Compassionate Life by Karen Armstrong. I have also learned that other church members, unable to attend the evening group, have begun reading this book on their own. May we find our lives moving more deeply together as we grow in compassion—for each other and our larger world.

--Lent begins on February 22 and a good number of you have decided to share in the Lenten season by using Joan Chittister's devotional guide "Journey into Light". Joan is one of those soaring souls who knows how to write our lives into the networks of neighbor love through our love of God. (While copies of "Journey into Light" have been ordered,

there remain a few "unclaimed copies". First come, first served. Cost \$5.00)

--The "Baptism Ahead" program proceeds as Ryan Blythe, Amanda Cadorette, Rachael Hebblewhite, Moira Kersten, Charlotte Kersten, and Meg Kita continue to meet with Mark Clinger, their mentors and their church school teacher Tom Kersten. One of those mentors, Paul Chotlos, approached me with obvious enthusiasm yesterday speaking with great appreciation for how the curriculum is itself an exercise in Baptist faith—rich conversations about faith and Jesus built upon the solid foundations of soul freedom and Bible freedom.

--I would remind you that a group of twenty-some persons continue to explore our church's connection to a new generation. They have been reading books and attending Saturday sessions with Sam Brink of our state office as they have also been doing their "homework"—engaging in conversations and building relationships with persons in the larger community. Their final gathering will be February 25th. Meanwhile, Nancy Emmert, Tom Kersten, and Mark Clinger will travel to Camp Tamarack this week-end to participate in the first session of an ongoing program offered by The American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin, entitled "Missional Learning Journey". The purpose of this journey is to help our church better connect to the larger community of Madison with Christ's agape love. **continues on next page**

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday, February 12

9:00 am Church School for All Ages
10:30 am Worship, Mark Clinger preaching
Sermon Text: II Kings 5:1-14

Sunday, February 19

9:00 am - Church School for All Ages
10:30 am - Worship, Mark Clinger preaching
Sermon Text: Isaiah 43:18-25

If you would like to make a confession of faith in Christ and be baptized into his body, to become a member of this congregation, or renew your Christian commitment, you are warmly invited to call Mark Clinger (233-1880).

Phone (608) 233-1880 * FAX (608) 233-2814

E-mail: fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Web Page: www.firstbaptistmadison.org

--The web of relations continues. Under the continuing fine leadership of Brooke and Carl Siddell, air tickets have now been purchased for our youth's participation in "Immerse" July 24-28. This gathering of American Baptist Youth will engage them in worship, mission, as well as introducing them to public witness.

--Our church as a community of faith is certainly weaving a rich web of relationships. While other growing edges continue to require our attention (such as cultural inclusivity), the rich ties that bind give us strength to move forward on these fronts as well.

--A final word is in order about the fabric of our life. Since February 1994 Barbara Smart has lived at the intersection and hub of so much of our church activity. She has brought a deep love and friendship to us all, kept an eye on the many needs and requirements of our life together, and done it all with a spirit of joy and dedication. The Board of Trustees has recently received and accepted her letter of retirement which will be effective June 30th of this year. While more remains to be said as that date approaches, we know full well all she has contributed to our life together. As Dr. King said, "whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." Barb's retirement will certainly be felt by us all.

In peace, *Mark*

Construction Update

While we are now enjoying our new gracious gathering space, entrances and elevators, please know all is not "done". Robert's Construction continues to complete numerous small details. Also know there are still numerous items to attend to that fall to us for completion. Among these items are internal signs, re-arrangement of furniture in a number of classrooms, moving the music library, displays of art, and matters of storage. Rest assured that these items remain on your leaders' radar screens and they are aware of much clutter and many details still to complete. Know that you may well be asked to lend some assistance in these matters—many hands make light work!

2011 Year-End Statements have been mailed. If you have not received your copy, if you have questions or corrections, please contact Barb Smart, 233-1880.

PRAYER CONCERNS

In the Hospital: Marilyn Gibson at Meriter;
Church Family: Sheila Donald; Bill Fiore; Palmer Haynes; Ellen McElmurry; Cheryl Castillo; Luis Castillo; Harold Rasmussen; Jeanne Maruska; Judy Bienfang; Diana Long's sister, Judy Sveum; Paul Husting's friends, David Baer and Bill Koberstein and Bill's sister, Ginny
In Nursing Home / Assisted Living: Robert Ham at Good Samaritan, Lodi; Bill Lutter's father, Frank Lutter; Al Heupel at Wynwood West; Marvin VanCleave at Oakwood East; Anna Strain at Orchid House, Verona; Lucille Higgason at St. Mary's Care Center; Frank Ashworth at Sienna Crest, Oregon; Art Basile at Attic Angel Place; Ernestine Hoskins at Waunakee Manor; Dottie Sledge, Florida; Charlotte Lipham, Minneapolis; Peggy Knox in private assisted care; Linda Olson at Badger Prairie Health Care
In Mission abroad: Judy Sutterlin in China
Our seminarians: Deb Holland; George Mohr; Kathryn Ray

Church Dine-In February 12

If you have been enjoying the new gathering space, make plans to join the Dine-In on Sunday, **February 12** after the church service in Fellowship Hall. There is no agenda or program. The menu will consist of soups, sandwiches, and dessert. We ask for a contribution of \$5 for those 12 and up or \$10 per family. Please make a reservation either with the church office or on the pew pads.

Third Tuesday Lunch

Third Tuesday Lunch will meet **February 21** at noon in Fellowship Hall. Our program, "Visits to Zimbabwe", which starts at 1:00, will be given by Nancy and Gil Emmert about their trip to Zimbabwe. The main dish will be provided so please bring a salad, dessert or bread to share. Reservations can be made by signing the pew pads or by calling the church office, 233-1880. The program and lunch are open to everyone, so join us for good food, warm fellowship and a very interesting program.

Women's Circle February Meeting – Africa

Just back from Africa, Diane Adams will inform the Women's Circle about her experiences and about our ABC work in Africa, our area study theme for this year. The meeting is **Monday, February 27 at 1:30** at Diane's house, 5706 Anchorage Ave. All women of the church are invited. RSVP helpful 231-1836.

At our March meeting we will be discussing Listen to the Children, *Conversations with Immigrant Families* by Elizabeth Conde-Frazier. If you would like to read one of the shared copies or order your own contact Lynette Miller 238-4155 or Pat Young 835-2194.

Adult Education Classes

Please join us for one of the following classes.

Ongoing classes are THE HOUR GLASS and THE PARENTING FAITH CLASS

February 19- March 25

MEANINGFUL LENT, A SEASON OF SOUL SEARCHING, CONTEMPLATION AND PREPARATION- led by Alan Ferguson

Palm Sunday – Inter-generational event

Easter- no classes

April 15-May 20

UNPACKING THE REVELATION TO JOHN, led by Rev. Mark Clinger

Prayer Shawls

First Baptist Church members and friends have been making and giving prayer shawls since 2004 and have delivered close to 100 shawls since then. Our supply is very low now and we need more shawls. The shawls are made by volunteers in prayer for the recipient although the maker does not know who the recipient will be. The shawls are given for comfort at a time of serious illness or grief. The shawls are displayed outside the church office. Directions for making the shawls are also available there.

Please consider making a shawl to replenish our supply. Completed shawls may be left in the church office to be tagged. If you have questions, please contact Lydia Haynes, 437-4990, or Claire Rider, 836-9721.

ADULT EDUCATION SURVEY

One of the most enduring norms of our Board of Education Adult program involves the input of the congregation as you share your interest with us in developing and scheduling classes to address our spiritual growth as Christians. We have heard from a number of you as to future classes and we encourage your recommendations on the following suggestions as well as your suggestions as to possible teachers.

- Basic Bible series
- Prayer
- A home host on theological topics
- Theme topics
- Classes that offer a balance of the cognitive and the contemplative/mystic ways of knowing and experiencing God
- A study of discipleship to help us grow in our relationship with God
- A Bible study that helps us answer spiritual questions in order that we may apply it to our everyday lives
- Taizé worship
- In addition to the above classes, what other subjects would you like the Board of Education to consider for adults in the future?
- Would you be interested in attending a class at other times other than Sunday morning? If so, when?
- Would you be willing to teach a class?

Save the Date

World Day of Prayer 2012

Let Justice Prevail. Friday, March 2, 1:30 p.m., at Oakwood West, 6209 Mineral Point Road, second floor of the Tower-lounge by Tea Room.

Service prepared by
the Christian women of Malaysia.

Wednesday Evening "Food & Fellowship"

Join us for a hot meal and fellowship every Wednesday in Fellowship Hall. We welcome new friends to share this time together from 5:30 - 7:00 PM each week. Call Loree Davies, 238-1817, or Carol Ferge, 836-9438 for details.

Thank You Notes

Thank You First Baptist!

Your cards began to flow in, just as our family had taken down all the Christmas cards. So, there was the obvious space to display your caring and love. Hospital visits by Mark and others made my day. Thanks to all. - Palmer Haynes

Thank you to all my First Baptist Friends for all the cards. A BIG thank you for my prayer shawl ...it is keeping me warm and I have received many compliments. Thank you so much

- Alice Lundeen

To First Baptist Women's Circle,

Thank you for the gift of cookies at Christmas time. They were so good and it was such a thoughtful thing for you to do.

I appreciate your kindness very much (Marvin was glad to be included! - Naomi Van Cleave

Thank you for partnering with Ruth Mooney to continue preparing pastors and leaders at the Latin American Biblical University in San Jos, Costa Rica
-from the Ruth Mooney Support Team

Thank You Notes from Our Partners in Ministry

The Crossing

The students and staff of The Crossing send a heartfelt THANK YOU to First Baptist Church for serving a meal to us on Nov. 6 and December 4, 2011

We especially thank your organizers, cooks and servers. Those we know of are Gene Dewey, Lynette Miller, Diane Adams, Claire Rider and Jill Thomas.

Centro Hispanic of Dane County

Thank you for supporting the mission of Centro Hispanic. Your donation of \$100 helps Centro Hispanic to achieve our mission of: (1) empowering youth through education and leadership development; (2) strengthening families through advocacy, social support and adult education; (3) engaging the community through celebrations, forums, workshops and by creating a space where the Latino community can be involved.

Porchlight

On behalf of Porchlight, Inc, I want to thank you for the contribution of \$500...Your generous support makes possible our programs to assist many of those most in need in our community. Thanks You!

Steven J. Schooler
Executive Director

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Thank you for your monetary donation of \$250 and your non-perishable food donations all year. You helped us keep our shelves filled!

Rev. Richard Jones, Senior Pastor

Habitat for Humanity

Thank you for your generous holiday gift of \$100 to Habitat for Humanity of Dane County. Your donation, together with those of other individuals, businesses, faith communities and organizations, will help more families transform their lives through home ownership.

Perry L. Ecton, CEO

Allied Wellness Center

On behalf of the Allied Wellness Center, thank you for your ongoing support to the families located here in the Allied Community. Your donation of \$100 this month has come to the aide of several families. May God continue to shine upon you all.

Gloria Manadier-Farr, CSAC

Community Chaplin/Community Health Liaison

Thank you from Our Second Chance Family

Our Second Chance family is very appreciative of the Christmas gifts FBC gave them over the holidays. It was reported that the grandson played with his gifts all day and especially enjoyed the race track. The Mom and daughter purchased some warm winter clothing from the Burlington Coat Factory gift certificates. The Mom takes a bus back and forth from work and is grateful to have warm clothes. They are very thankful for the support they are receiving from First Baptist.

Dana Palmer, the Road Home social worker who is working directly with our family will share a word of witness with our church during our service on Sunday Feb. 19. We will hear directly from Dana how our family is doing and what the support our church is giving means to them. Please contact Janet Clinger for more information.



***The Visitor* Newsletter**
Publication Dates for 2012

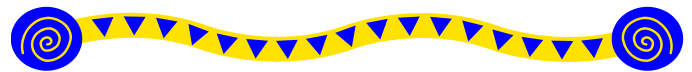
March 5 and 19	April 9 and 23
May 7 and 21	June 4 and 18
July 9 and 23	August 6 and 20
September 10 and 24	October 8 and 22
November 5 and 19	December 3 and 17



Article deadline is 9am on day of publication.
Email to: fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Next newsletter is
February 20th.

Please note that some of the
newsletter dates have changed.



FIRST BAPTIST YOUTH CINEMA PRESENTS... DOUBLE FEATURE MOVIE DAY!



When: Saturday, February 11th
Where: Fellowship Hall • First Baptist Church
518 N. Franklin Ave.
Showtimes: 1:30-3:30...Gnomeo & Juliet
4:00-6:00...Roman Holiday

Come to one or both! The movies are free, but we hope to receive a \$5 donation per movie, per person (\$3 per child), or \$10 per family, to help support this summer's Youth Mission Trip to Washington D.C. We'll also be selling popcorn & drinks and having a ♥ Valentine's Day bake sale.♥

Bring your family and friends for lots of fun!