



“SoJourn in this land, and I will be with you, and bless you!” (Gen. 26:3)

A Word from Wes

Let's change our name.

Everybody else is doing it. Movie stars and celebrities get to pick their identities. Businesses brand themselves to sell their products. Religious communities are following the trend. It is a way to move from confining, restrictive, or “outdated” forms. Who wants to be a “church” when they can be a “fellowship” or a “mission center” or have some other catchy phrase that attracts those who are looking for the latest to follow?

Besides, it's not easy being the church. You have all of those issues and tensions that come into play when there are different generational groups inhabiting the same spaces, or divergences in political or theological perspectives, to say nothing of other differences of culture or ethnicity. Let's open things up to a wider constituency and become more generic. At the same time, we can narrow our basic approach to religion to the lowest common denominator so that the tension will be diminished. (Get the contradiction?)

How about becoming “The Place of What's Happening Now”!?!

I hope you can see that I am not serious about that.

It has never been easy to be the church. The New Testament records the struggles of the church as Jew and Greek and Roman and Egyptian and Syrian and people from across the then known world were drawn

to the Good News of God's love. The church had to figure out how be faithful in the face of differing viewpoints.

History is also filled with the accounts of such concerns being dealt with, often to the detriment of the work of God's purposes in the world. Indeed, some conflicts led to violence and war; and people turned their backs on the church and religion, altogether. For these and other reasons, it may be tempting to deny the word and the identity....church.

However, we give our names and our identities meaning by how we live our lives and invest ourselves in the world. Church means the “called out ones”: called by God out of the world not to be separate from it but to serve and to bring the Good News to it. To be Ambassadors of God's Reign. Other powerful expressions in the Scriptures help us understand our identity and the church. I encourage you to explore them.

I believe that living up to being the church brings the blessing of our efforts for God's own purpose whether we follow the latest trends or not, by drawing on the wisdom and the power of God's own Spirit and teaching of Jesus, the Christ.

Let's not change our name...

-Wes

SENDING PRAYERS TO OUR FAMILY OF **FAITH**

Please remain in prayer for these people who are or have recently been under doctor's care: Patty Babian, Ray Sharp, Sandra Paran, Roger Edgington, Kelly Kestel, Jo Ellis.

Please also keep in your prayers our homebound friends: Alice Adams, Enid Holliday, Norma Moore, Ray Sharp, Evelyn Morrell, Phil Lett, Frances Bramblett, Patty Babian, George and Margaret Edgington.

We continue to keep Evelyn Morrell in our prayers

We keep Collin Trask in our prayers as he continues his recovery and transition.

Doris Myers requested that we make her Grandson's service email address available to our members. Send him a holiday message of hope and gratitude at VincentTumminello@iwo-jima.usmc.mil

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia you gave me. It brightened up my apartment and reminded me of all of you and our beautiful church. It was greatly appreciated.

Fondly,
Frances Bramblett



Happy February Birthdays!

- February 8 Angie Willingham
- February 10 Ethleon Thomson
Kristen Bennett
- February 12 Adam Bennett
- February 14 Nancy Nabors
- February 16 Andrea McWilliam
- February 17 Carson Arnegard
- February 18 Lisa O'Donohue
- February 19 Audrey Holtz
- February 20 Nick Kelly
Kirk McWilliam
- February 22 Philip Babian
Leslie Jaquez
Brian Jones
- February 24 Jerry Mills
- February 27 Emma Olsen
Will Olsen
Werner Schettling

2009 Officers: Moderator: Joan Trusty Moore; Vice Moderator: Dave Brault; Financial Secretary: Glenn Craig; Treasurer: Carol Olsen; Recording Clerk: Harriet Stewart; Membership Clerk: Kathy Charbeneau
2009 Ministry Team Chairs: Jerri Poet (Deacons); Jodi Bly (Educational); Larry Phillips (Human Resources); Carol McWilliam (Physical Resources); Myra Trask (Stewardship); Robert Washburn (Outreach)

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Fundraiser!

Buy your tickets now for the February 19, 2009 Comedy Night at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, 269 E. Fourth Street, Royal Oak. The evening will begin with a light supper at 6:30, and the show will start at 8:00. Headliner Tommy Johnagin is known as an "autobiographical comic" who finds something funny about everyone he meets and everything he does. Also appearing will be Paull Piziks and Master of Ceremonies Jason Hagle. Mark Ridley himself indicated that Mr. Johnagin's comedy routine is clean, so patrons can bring friends and neighbors without embarrassment.

Proceeds of the evening will be split 50/50 between Camp Lael and Friendship House. We also view this as an opportunity for "friend-raising" and encourage you to invite people who are unfamiliar with the two ministries to come with you. It's also a Christian outreach opportunity—let people know that Christians can laugh and have fun!

Tickets are \$25 before February 12 and \$30 thereafter. For tickets call 248-722-4516 (Jim Bolin) or 313-871-7443 (Friendship House).



A Look at the Financials

As of December 31, 2008

Pledged Income Actual	\$199,849
Pledged Income Budget	\$200,000
 Pledged variance	 (\$ 151)

Please continue to keep current with your pledges.

Pantry Blessings!

A word to tell all of you that your contribution of paper goods each First Sunday are much needed and deeply appreciated. The purchase of paper goods is not covered by food stamps. Ferndale Baptist's Food Pantry serves 200 families each month. The families - 100 on the first Monday of the month and 100 on the third - come with a list of things they need. They are screened and qualify for this service. Food is plentifully supplied by the Gleaners community food bank and is delivered in large quantities by truck. There are no paper goods available from them.

An example - for a family of six with the need for bathroom tissue - the volunteers who make up the boxes for distribution were able to allot one roll of toilet tissue - for the month! When paper napkins are asked for, large packages are opened and re-packaged in smaller quantities.

The volunteers' work is hard on these Mondays. What makes it worth while is exemplified by what happened last week. A woman appeared at the woman appeared at the workroom door, and when asked how she could be helped, she asked how she could help them! Her family had been supplied by the Food Pantry in the past and she wants to give something back!

Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday is February 25. We will be offering a services of ashes and confession. Watch for more details in the bulletin announcements.



Prayer Breakfast Invitation

Plan to attend the 10th Annual Men's Prayer Breakfast for the men and boys of the Metro Detroit Association on Saturday, February 21, 2009, from 8:30–10:30 am. The event will be hosted by Bethel Baptist Church in Southgate. There is no charge for the meal, though a special mission offering will be received.



February Communion Offering: South Oakland Shelter

South Oakland Shelter is undergoing a renaissance. They have a new Executive Director, Kevin Roach, and with Kevin comes a new vision for the agency. The new vision recognizes that while our focus is singular, breaking the cycle of homelessness, our purpose and those we serve is dual. With each individual and family who walk through our doors seeking the basic necessities of life comes the opportunity to bolster and strengthen all of the unique communities that make up Oakland County Michigan.

ABWM News ... Scholarships for Women

**Doris Rue, Interpreter of Scholarship MDA
ABW Ministries**

It is with great pleasure that I bring to your attention the announcement below. With hope and faith, I pray it will be a blessing for many. Please inform your church congregation, family, friends and community of the following.

Scholarships (\$700.00 first year/\$800.00 subsequent years) are available from ABW Ministries of Michigan. Any young woman who is an active member of an AB Church in Michigan, is enrolled in an AB related college/seminary, or is enrolled in a School of Nursing is eligible. To receive an application, please submit your request/inquiries to:

Linda Schlee (ABW Ministries - Scholarship Region Officer), P.O. Box 11, Ceresco, MI 49033-0011

Linda@baumanaccounting.com

The deadline for applications is March 1, 2009. Therefore, it is most important that requests and submission of applications are made ASAP.



Learning Community Opportunities Sundays and Throughout the Week

During Worship

- Children K - 5 are dismissed and are taught by Francie Middleditch

Following Worship

- Children (K - 5): Music program led by Judy Phillips and Kathy Charbeneau
- Middle Schoolers meet with Leona Frost
- High Schoolers meet with Joan Trusty Moore
- Jim Poe will be teaching the Christian Forum Class using the Judson Journeys materials
- Pastor Babian will lead a group in the parlor on the topic of Evangelism

Throughout the Week

- Tuesdays at 10AM Pastor Babian leads a Bible Study at the home of Audrey Holtz.
Topic: The Gospel of John
- Wednesdays at 6:30PM Lectionary discussion led by Pastor Babian
- Thursdays at 7PM Pastor Babian leads a Bible Study at the home of Hazel Boltwood.
Topic: The Gospel of John
- Alternating Fridays - FBCB Downtown Readers Group meets at Boarders Bookstore in Birmingham at 12:30PM

Please consult the weekly bulletin or call the church office for changes.

Join us!
Annual Meeting Today after Worship!

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY?

One of the things I've discovered is that music is a touchy subject in churches. You wouldn't think it would be, since hymns connect with most people in some deep place. The library has several new books by Ken Osbeck that focus on "favorite hymns." Osbeck relates the stories that inspired the hymns to be written. Just as important as the stories themselves, however, are the comments Osbeck shares about church music. Here are a few introductory quotes:

The Christian faith is a singing faith. Hence the singing of the people is the most important form of music in an evangelical church. (Several Sunday's ago our LC class heard that "evangelical" means "good news"...NN)

Christian song is the overflow of the Christian heart. If our hearts are full, our singing will be full.

Hymn singing reflects a congregation's spiritual vitality and their response to God's grace.

Historians have stated that Martin Luther won more converts to Christ through his encouragement of congregational singing than even through his strong preaching and teaching. (16th century)

Of the Wesleys it was said that, for every person they won with their preaching, ten were won through their music. (18th Century)

Singing does at least as much as preaching to impress the Word of God upon people's minds. (D.L Moody, 19th Century)

I have long been impressed with the power of the hymnal...and the amazing workings of God underlying our great hymns. It is my sincere prayer that this little book will be used by God to kindle a renewed appreciation for your church hymnal and the privilege that is yours of offering unto God the "sacrifice of praise." Hebrews 13:15 (Osbeck)

Having read this book, I come to our morning hymns in a new way. I listen for the message God might have for me. I let the words speak for me.

Pastors choose hymns that speak their hearts and further interpret their sermons. The hymns we sing are an opportunity for your own praise... and AMEN.

101 Hymn Stories and 101 More Hymn Stories can be found on the Current Interest Shelf through February.

Nancy Nabors, for the Library Committee

Christian Life Experience - Feb 14th American Baptist Women's Ministries of MDA invites you to "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" Saturday, 10am- 1pm, February 14th at FBC Detroit. Dr. Linnea Berg, Exec. Director of Friendship House will bring the gathering up-to-date on events and ways you can support those in need through Friendship House. Bring a gift (see items needed and registration detail on the bulletin board) to help the ministry. Lunch is courtesy of Friendship House! Call today! Registration Deadline Jan. 31st.



Celebrating Our 13th Year!

Our next Vespers ...

A Post Valentine Day Special

B'Jazz Vesper Concert...

"We're In This Together...A Jazzy Valentine."

**Featuring Tony Camilleti, vocalist with the
Darryl Roenicke Trio and Special Guest
Vocalist, Sandra Bomar.**

Celebrate love with an evening of retro-
romantic songs and contemporary jazz
favorites...

Sunday, February 15, 6 to 8PM

SOS Volunteers Needed

The South Oakland Shelter program will be at our church during the week of February 8. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be posted soon. Please mark your calendars! It takes many people to make this critical ministry happen!

Also, please note that the SOS headquarters has moved from Royal Oak to the First Baptist Church o Ferndale, Michigan.

CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF BEING BAPTIST Baptist Beginnings, 1609

In 2009, Baptists around the world are celebrating the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first Baptist church. English Christians living in Amsterdam, Holland, began meeting for worship in a bakehouse, and sometime in early 1609, the group held its first baptismal service. While planning that service, the group encountered a serious problem. No one in the group had experienced baptism as a believer. They all had been baptized as infants in the Church of England. The leader of the group, John Smyth, suggested that he baptize himself first and then baptize the other believers. Each person baptized was an adult who had confessed belief in Jesus Christ.

This small group was committed to the belief that church membership should be based on a personal confession of faith followed by believer's baptism. Their radical decision countered the religious expectations of their homeland of England, where in the seventeenth century, all citizens were required to be members of the Church of England. Refusing to adhere to this requirement meant being subjected to fines, whippings, and imprisonments. A desire for religious freedom and the study of the New Testament led this small band of Christians to reject infant baptism and found a new church. Thus, in 1609, led by Smyth and Thomas Helwys, these religious dissenters became the first Baptists.

In 1612, Helwys and about ten other members sailed home to England, settled near London at Spitalfield, and planted the first Baptist church on English soil. Shortly after his arrival in England, Helwys published A Short Declaration of the Mystery of Iniquity, the first document written in English that called for complete religious freedom. Helwys asserted that the king of England had no power to control religious beliefs or practices, but instead each person, regardless of his or her religious beliefs, must have complete spiritual freedom. Helwys also challenged the king to allow individuals the right to read and interpret scripture. Failing to allow such freedom, Helwys noted, would result in the people being kept in "woeful spiritual bondage."

For the past four hundred years, Baptists at their best have continued to affirm and defend the freedoms embraced by our earliest Baptist leaders. (ELink)

Please Note ...

- **Youth Event:** Hold the Date for Youth Lock-In on February 27
- **Church Service DVD Available:** The Deacons are making available a video set that includes DVDs of the Dec. 21 Sunday service, featuring our FBCB choir, and both the early and late Christmas Eve services, plus an audio CD of the Dec. 21 service. These will be available, for a donation, at the Annual Meeting. These are the videos that are being sent to our shut-ins and 'snowbirds'. If you would like to reserve a set, contact either the church office or Jerri Poe.
- **SOS Dinner Donations Needed:** Please sign up in the Welcome Center to bring the items listed on the poster. Feel free to sign up for more than one item! And we need you to help prep and serve the dinners too! Please let Carol Olsen, the SOS Dinner Leader know of your willingness. Thanking you in advance.
- **Upcoming Program:** "Tell Me A Story" event with Pastor Babian and Seminary Intern Min. Marcia Bonds. More details to follow. Save the date: March 8

A Good Quote

"If you judge people,
you have no time to love them."

Mother Teresa
Indian (Albanian-born) humanitarian
& missionary (1910 - 1997)

Daily Prayers For This Month

Each morning when you get up, take a brief moment to say the prayer written below. See if, by the end of the week, having made this time for God's word, somehow, your life has changed for the better, your outlook has become brighter, your spirit, stronger. These prayers are taken from the "Seasons of the Spirit" lectionary materials.

Sunday, January 25, 2009

God, as you called from their daily work the four who were fishing, so you call us in the midst of everyday life. Help us to hear your voice and to discern your call. Strengthen us as we learn to share the message of your reign of justice and peace. Amen.

Sunday, February 1, 2009

Powerful God, make us bold to embrace your wisdom and open to being shaped by its way. Speak to us, that we might enact your word and transform our world in amazing ways to conform to your way of compassion, love and justice. Amen.

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Holy One, who makes all things possible, lift us when we are weary. Be our strength, and fill us with hope as we seek to serve you and our neighbor this day. Amen.

Sunday, February 15, 2009

O God, our only hope, thank you for choosing to touch our lives with wholeness and restoration. This day and all days, strengthen our resolve to make choices that witness to others of your amazing healing power. Amen.

Sunday, February 22, 2009

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus the Christ. Grant that as we look on Christ, we may be transformed and be strengthened to follow your call to serve in the world. Amen.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

Sunday, January 25, 2009
“Follow Me” ~ Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, February 1, 2009
“Power To Do” ~ Mark 1:21-28

Sunday, February 8, 2009
“Source of Strength” ~ Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 15, 2009
“Compassionate Community” ~ Mark 1:40-45

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