

Bridge Builders Newsletter

First Baptist Church of Macomb
136 W. Carroll
Macomb IL. 61455

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March 2007
Issue 381



Join Us For Worship
Saturday Worship
5:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Vision and Purpose Statement:

To encourage and empower changes within ourselves,
to meet the needs of the congregation, community and the world.

Philippians 4:13, James 2:26

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2007 Daily Bible Reading Guide for March

3/1 Deuteronomy 6-7	Job 40	3/16 Joshua 10-11	Psalm 9
3/2 Deuteronomy 8-9	Job 41	3/17 Joshua 12-13	Psalm 10
3/3 Deuteronomy 10-11	Job 42	3/18 Joshua 14-15	Psalm 11
3/4 Deuteronomy 12-13	Psalm 1	3/19 Joshua 16-19	
3/5 Deuteronomy 14-17		3/20 Joshua 20-23	
3/6 Deuteronomy 18-21		3/21 Joshua 24, Judges 1	Psalm 12
3/7 Deuteronomy 22-23	Psalm 2	3/22 Judges 2-3	Psalm 13
3/8 Deuteronomy 24-25	Psalm 3	3/23 Judges 4-5	Psalm 14
3/9 Deuteronomy 26-27	Psalm 4	3/24 Judges 6-7	Psalm 15
3/10 Deuteronomy 28-29	Psalm 5	3/25 Judges 8-9	Psalm 16
3/11 Deuteronomy 30-31	Psalm 6	3/26 Judges 10-13	
3/12 Deut. 32-34, Joshua 1		3/27 Judges 14-17	
3/13 Joshua 2-5		3/28 Judges 18-21	
3/14 Joshua 6-7	Psalm 7	3/29 Ruth 1-2	Psalm 17
3/15 Joshua 8-9	Psalm 8	3/30 Ruth 3-4	Psalm 18
		3/31 1 Samuel 1-2	Psalm 19

“He Saw Us”

The final prayer of Jesus was about you and me. His final pain was for you and me. His final passion was for you and me. And when he spoke with his father we were in His prayers. Jesus prayed for all who would follow Him. What did Jesus pray for us? He prayed for unity, protection from the evil one, and holiness. Knowing that Jesus prayed for us should give us confidence as we work for the Kingdom.

In the summer of 1876, the grasshoppers nearly destroyed the crops in Minnesota. So in the spring of 1877, farmers were worried. They believed that the dreadful plague would once again visit them and again destroy the rich wheat crop, bringing ruin to thousands of people.

The situation was so serious that Governor John S. Pillsbury proclaimed April 26 as a day of prayer and fasting. He urged every man, woman, and child to ask God to prevent the terrible scourge. On that April day all schools, shops, stores, and offices were closed. There was a reverent, quiet hush over all the state.

The next day dawned bright and clear. Temperatures soared to what they ordinarily were in midsummer, which was very peculiar for April. Minnesotans were devastated as they discovered billions of grasshopper larvae wiggling to life. For three days the unusual heat persisted, and the larvae hatched. It appeared that it wouldn't be long before they started feeding and destroying the wheat crop.

On the fourth day, however, the temperature suddenly dropped, and that night frost covered the earth. It killed every one of those creeping, crawling pests as surely as if poison or fire had been used. Grateful farmers never forgot that day. It went down in the history of Minnesota as the day God answered the prayers of the people.

As we begin the season of Lent I want you to remember that Jesus came into the world to talk to people about God, but, while He was here, He also talked to God about people and now, in Heaven, He continues to pray for us, interceding on our behalf.

I do look forward to traveling through the Lenten Season with you.

— Pastor Wally





Musing on Missions
by Meryl Cook

Souper Bowl Sunday was more successful for First Baptist than it was for the Chicago Bears! 1525 cans of soup were collected and have been taken to Loaves and Fishes.

Thanks to AJ, Marilyn, Maureen, Chuck, Debbie, and Donnie for moving them to the Presbyterian Church.

I had been unaware that this has been a project for American Baptist Youth with a little different twist since 1990. 81 Baptist Churches participated in 2006, even raising more than \$27,000. More than \$33 million has been raised in 16 years.

American teens in all 50 states collect donations at churches, schools, and retail outlets and every penny raised is given to local charities. It is called Souper Bowl of Caring and is endorsed by NFL owners.

The founder and executive director of Souper Bowl of Caring is Brad Smith. To participate a group must register, rally support on Super Bowl Sunday, report the collection to www.souperbowl.org and then donate to their favorite charity. A resource kit with planning & promotion material plus a DVD are sent upon request.

Colchester Bethel collected \$700 that was sent to Friendship House in Peoria for the Sunday Soup Kitchen. They, however, were not involved in the program described above.

The GRR Annual Missionary Conference was held January 26-27 at Cherry Hills

new building on the south side of Springfield. It is located between the Regional office and our Baptist Camp. Sheila Morath of Roseville, and I accompanied Pastor Wally to the meeting.

Four Baptist International Missionaries, Kristina Gutierrez and Laura Parajon of Nicaragua, and Rick and Anita Gutierrez of South Africa, spoke of their ministries.

Rev. Dr. Gutierrez works in theological & mission education & pastoral counseling. She also cooperated with the rural health program & the Baptist Theological Seminary. Laura is a medical doctor as is her husband, David. They have been in Nicaragua 5 years & are parents of 3 children, ages 10, 8, & 6 years old. Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in the world. 80% of rural families do not have the basic needs of water, food, and shelter. They have started a project "Say No To Worms". For 2 cents a dose, a child can be treated for round worms that weaken their body. The Parajon children made little paper banks to collect money for this project. Laura said some mothers mix white corn starch with water to feed their babies.

Rick & Anita Gutierrez are stationed in Durban, South Africa. They train local people to teach and screen for HIV, diabetes, high blood sugar, and high cholesterol. During the past 3 years they have trained 40 health workers in Durban and 120 missionaries and pastors from 12 different African countries.

Lisa Harris, Executive Director of Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City and Rev. Jack Smith of Dixon, speaking for Murrow Children's Home at Muskogee, updated us on those ministries.

Murrow Children's Home has been operating at a deficit for sometime and the decision was made in January to discontinue the home that houses 22 children. However, a special effort has been made to raise the necessary funds for continued operation. An offering of over \$3,800 was received at the conference plus a ton of non-perishable food. Jack & Hilda Smith were taking the food to Muskogee. They were also taking the Campbell Soup bar codes that had been contributed. (Remember the Campbell company no longer accepts the front label-only the bar code with the little fat kid).

One of the Cherry Hills ladies drove up to the front entrance and brought in several bags of groceries to be used for the meals Friday night and Saturday. She left to park her car and returned to find the groceries gone. In the meantime, Jack Smith discovered the sacks of food by the door and thinking it was for the Murrow Children's Home, took them out and put them in his truck. He soon learned the mistake and went to retrieve the groceries. We had plenty to eat!

IM Annie Dieselberg of Bangkok, Thailand has developed a ministry with former prostitutes. The women make jewelry to help support themselves. A table of jewelry was on display at the conference. The necklaces, bracelets, and earrings are made of semi-precious stones that are purchased in Baghdad market. The Nightlight Design Co Ltd. Is a newly formed organization based in Bangkok and is focused on "bringing light to women and children through physical, emotional, and spiritual healing, and through economic development."

The trafficking of human beings is now tied with drugs as the second largest moneymaking venture in the world. In Thailand, it is estimated that between 300,000 and 2.8 million

women are involved in prostitution, as well as 500,000 children. According to a CIA report, 700,000 to 2 million women and children globally are victimized by traffickers each year.

You may see the jewelry on the Internet at www.nightlightbangkok.com. It gives the price and description of each item. There are now 40 women who have gotten out of prostitution and are employed at Nightlight. Ask me to show you the beautiful agate necklace that I bought.

Books, devotionals, quarterlies, etc. were brought for the Book Depository in Cincinnati, OH. The shipping charges are \$80,000 a year for the material sent all over the world. At any one time 25 volunteers are working to fill requests.

We have received 'thank yous' from several of the missionaries for the Christmas gifts. We had a letter from Susan Harding, Cordova, AK and Kathy Baillargen, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Christian Center. Money sent through International Ministries has been acknowledged. Kristina Gutierrez thanked me personally at the Missions Conference.

David Harman join 24 other GRR volunteers on Feb. 3 to drive to southern Mississippi to build houses for Habitat for Humanity. They returned Feb. 10. This group worked on 3 houses. Thanks for your help, David.

Bible Book for March-Ezra

Birthdays

March 2—Annie Dieselberg IM, Thailand

March 19—Kristi Engle IM, Dominican Republic

March 19—Rick Gutierrez IM, South Africa

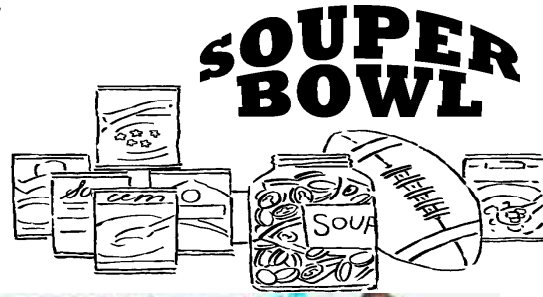
**M
A
R
C
H**

- 1 - Kathy Brooks
- 3 - Bill Brooks
- 6 - Doris McClure
- 9 - Trissy Smith
- 10 - Angie Green
- 17 - Moises Molina
- 18 - Don Garlick
Wilbert Hoff
Sandra Riggins
- 19 - **Richard & Judy Hurt (a)**
- 21 - **James & Phyllis Rule (a)**
- 23 - **Bob & Majorie Alexander (a)**
- 24 - John Ceder
- 25 - Marvin Cook
Bill & JoAnn Sanders (a)
- 26 - Betty Adair
- 27 - Mary Ida Conn
- 28 - John Shaver



We collected 1525 cans of soup for Loaves and Fishes.

Thank you Marilyn & AJ Bourn, Chuck & Maureen Hamilton, and Donnie Garlick for delivering the cans.



Adopt A Highway

The Baptist Mens' Ministry would like to thank all those who have volunteered to be a part of this program. Thanks to

AJ Bourn	Wally Holt
Caleb, Bryce, & Mike Carper	Judy & Richard Hurt
Everette Fisher	Dustin Lambert
Mike Foulk	George Mangalaraj
Don Garlick	Donna Marlowe
Mike Geltmacher	Jim McCain
Eddie, Angie, Tim, & Tyler Green	Dick Pittman
Jim Harman	Jim Richardson
Margaret Harn	Dan Sigwart
	Steve Smart

We were told that the process will take a month to a month and a half to complete. We will keep you informed. Thanks again for your participation.

— Mens' Ministry



**Southern Gospel Worship
at First Baptist Church**

Saturday, March 3, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 4, 9:30 a.m.

A love offering will be collected

**The Lamplighters Quartet is well known in the
Bloomington-Normal and Peoria area for their fine
Southern Gospel music. Since their beginning in 1988,
they have been bringing the message of salvation through
Jesus Christ throughout central Illinois**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
Psalm 119:105**

Encounters with JESUS

When was the last time you *Encountered Jesus*?
Earlier today? Yesterday? Last week? Last month? Not at all?

Join us as Pastor Wally brings a series of Easter messages entitled *Encounters with Jesus* and explore Jesus' encounters with the blind man, Mary and Martha, Nicodemus, the Woman at the Well, James and John, and Mary Magdalene. Discover what we can learn from these experiences and prepare to *Encounter Jesus*.

Encounter Jesus this Easter 2007

³**March 3/4**, Lamplighters Southern Gospel Quartet

March 10/11, Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus

March 17/18, Nicodemus Encounters Jesus

March 24/25, The Woman at the Well Encounters Jesus

March 31/April 1, A visit from Caiaphas

April 7, Easter Eve Worship

5:00 p.m. *The Passion of the Christ* (The Mel Gibson Film)

April 8, Easter Worship

6:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Worship

James and John Encounter Jesus

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Easter Worship

Mary Magdalene Encounters Jesus

Come Along for the Ride

Geographic and social movement has characterized home mission since its beginning, and responding to change has remained a key marker on the road to more effective ministry. In 2007, technological advances and the pressure of global economics and politics are producing even more rapid change.

With so much change, we are urged to share the gospel, ministering to all who are “least” and often “left out” in the rush toward “progress”. One way we can do this is through the *America for Christ* offering. This offering enables us to send volunteers to the National Ministries/Habitat for Humanity Katrina rebuild, become equipped for ministry through *Got Style?*[™] evangelism training, ensure that chaplaincy services reach people in the midst of difficult life passages and minister to children in poverty.

During the month of March we are all asked to give to the *America for Christ* offering. Please pray and ask God what you should give. If you are unable to contribute financially, please pray that those who can give generously.

“For the love of Christ urges us on...” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Claudia McCain
Director of Small Group Ministries

★ Thank You! ★ THANK YOU! ★



**WE COULDN'T
HAVE DONE IT
WITHOUT YOU**

Thank you to everyone who helped and contributed in some way to make this year's Ham & Bean Dinner a great success!!!!

Our deepest sympathy to the Cobb family on the death of Kathryn Cobb's sister, Eleanor Schwab, who passed away on February 9.



B-I-B-L-E



Bible:

Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth

Recall the old story of the grandmother who was reading the Bible. When her grandson asked her why, she said, "I'm getting ready for my final exam."

Annual Meeting 2007

Area III of American Baptist Churches, Great Rivers Region

March 17, 2007

First Baptist Church, Fairbury, Illinois

Celebration of Ministry & Mission

Schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Gathering
- 10:00 a.m. Workshops I
- 11:00 a.m. Workshops II
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch (Introductions & Recognitions)
- 1:15 p.m. Worship—Rev. Randy McNeely, Speaker
- 2:30 p.m. Dismissal

Workshops:

- † *Vision, Discernment, Building*, Steve Anderson, host pastor
- † *GRR Mission & Ministry*, Dwight Stinnett
- † *Stewardship as Witness*, John Grisham
- † *Natural Church Development*, Max Klinkenborg
- † *Providing Continued Mission*, Paul Weers
- † *Campus Ministry*, Brian Romanowski
- † *Video for Your Webpage*, Richard Ricks

Registration is \$15.00 (includes lunch, snacks & materials)

- † Registration forms are available in the church office and are due back to the church office by Friday, March 9.
- † Rev. Randy McNeely's path of following the Lord's leadership has included many turning points: serving our country in the Air Force, working in a factory, serving as a lay leader in his church, listening to his pastor's encouragement to consider "full-time Christian service," seminary education, serving both rural and town churches, and now serving as GRR Associate Minister for Area IV with additional responsibilities for resourcing bi-vocational ministers/churches and the GRR Partnership with the Costa Rica Baptist Federation.

America for Christ Offering 2007 “Come Along for the Ride”



During March we will collect the America for Christ offering. “Baptists have always been people on their way to something” said Everette Goodwin, author of *Down By The Riverside*, a history of the Baptist faith. This offering supports home missions in the United States and Puerto Rico.

A partial listing of support includes: Regional support, 10 colleges and universities, 16 seminaries, Christian centers, disaster response and resettlement of refugees, ministry to children and youth and Judson Press Publications. The national goal is \$1,887,275.00. Our local goal is \$3000.00. We received \$1540.48 last year.

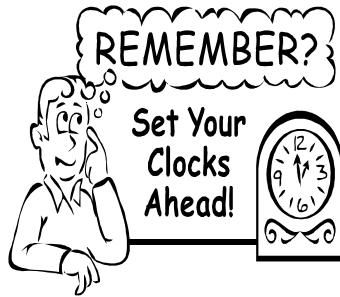
“For the love of Christ urges us on” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Thank you for your continued support.
Missions Committee



**Friday,
March 2**

**Sunday,
March 11**



**Saturday,
March 17**

**First Day
of Spring
Wednesday,
March 21**



**COMMUNITY LENTEN
WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 7:00 P.M.
WESLEY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
SPEAKER: OWEN THOMPSON

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 7:00 P.M.
ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
SPEAKER: STEVE SMITH

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 7:00 P.M.
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SPEAKER: RICHARD PRICCO

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 7:00 P.M.
MACOMB ASSEMBLY OF GOD

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 7:00 P.M.
SHEPHERD'S GATE
FOURSQUARE CHURCH
SPEAKER: VICTOR RANDLE

FRIDAY, APRIL 6
GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP
AT FBC
11:30 A.M.
SPEAKER: JASON HAWKINS
12:20 P.M.
SPEAKER: WILLIAM BROWN

A PRAYER REMINDER

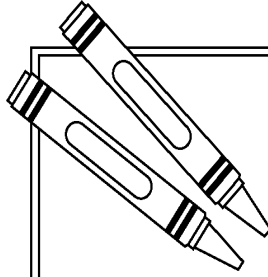
Many times we fold our hands together to pray. Here is a "handy" craft that can help you remember what to include in your prayers.

What you need:

- 2 sheets of 8½" x 11" construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Crayons
- 1 piece of ribbon, yarn or string about 6-12 inches long
- Glue (white or glue stick)

What to do:

1. Trace your hand on one sheet of paper.
2. Cut out the traced hand.
3. Tie the ribbon, yarn or string around the pointer (index) finger.
4. Write a message on each finger:
(Pointer finger) God's guidance (pray for help to follow God's ways)
(Middle finger) Leaders in my life (teachers, pastors, etc.)
(Ring finger) Sick and old people
(Pinky finger) Myself
(Thumb) My family
5. Glue the hand onto the other sheet of paper.
6. Start with the ribbon finger and pray for God's help. Then pray for all the people on each finger.



Just for **KIDS**

Remember to Pray

There are many verses in the Bible that talk to us about prayer. Solve the puzzle below to see the lesson Paul teaches about prayer in Philemon 1:4. Think about your own life and your prayers.



Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks, and then read Paul's message.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

" R Z O D Z B H G S Z M P N B

T L W Z H R I V N V N Y V I

B L F R M N B K I Z B V I H"

... Philemon 1:4, NIV

Answer: I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers ...