

Bridge Builders Newsletter

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

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Join Us For Worship
Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Vision and Purpose

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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2008 Daily Bible Reading Guide for May

5/1 Deuteronomy 18; Ecclesiastes 10; Acts 9	5/16 Deuteronomy 33-34; Isaiah 6; Colossians 3-4
5/2 Deuteronomy 19; Ecclesiastes 11; Acts 10	5/17 Joshua 1; Isaiah 7; 1 Thessalonians 1-2
5/3 Deuteronomy 20; Ecclesiastes 12; Acts 11-12	5/18 Joshua 2; Isaiah 8; 1 Thessalonians 3-4
5/4 Deuteronomy 21; Song of Solomon 1; Acts 13	5/19 Joshua 3-4; Isaiah 9; 1 Thessalonians 5
5/5 Deuteronomy 22; Song of Solomon 2; Acts 14-15	5/20 Joshua 5-6; Isaiah 10; 2 Thessalonians 1-2
5/6 Deuteronomy 23; Song of Solomon 3; Acts 16-17	5/21 Joshua 7; Isaiah 11; 2 Thessalonians 3
5/7 Deuteronomy 24; Song of Solomon 4; Acts 18-19	5/22 Joshua 8; Isaiah 12; 1 Timothy 1-3
5/8 Deuteronomy 25; Song of Solomon 5; Acts 20	5/23 Joshua 9; Isaiah 13; 1 Timothy 4-5
5/9 Deuteronomy 26; Song of Solomon 6; Acts 21-22	5/24 Joshua 10; Isaiah 14; 1 Timothy 6
5/10 Deuteronomy 27; Song of Solomon 7; Acts 23-24	5/25 Joshua 11; Isaiah 15; 2 Timothy 1
5/11 Deuteronomy 28; Song of Solomon 8; Acts 25-26	5/26 Joshua 12; Isaiah 16; 2 Timothy 2
5/12 Deuteronomy 29; Isaiah 1; Acts 27	5/27 Joshua 13; Isaiah 17-18; 2 Timothy 3-4
5/13 Deuteronomy 30; Isaiah 2; Acts 28	5/28 Joshua 14; Isaiah 19; Titus 1-3
5/14 Deuteronomy 31; Isaiah 3-4; Colossians 1	5/29 Joshua 15; Isaiah 20-21; Philemon 1
5/15 Deuteronomy 32; Isaiah 5; Colossians 2	5/30 Joshua 16; Isaiah 22; Hebrews 1-2
	5/31 Joshua 17; Isaiah 23; Hebrews 3-5

Do you realize that we can live in the overflow of God's love? Max Lucado says in his book *A Love Worth Giving* "that God loves you – personally, powerfully, and passionately. Others have promised and failed. But God has promised and succeeded. He loves you with an unending love. And His love – if you let it – can fill you and leave you with a love worth giving".

So where do we begin? Loving people isn't easy. In fact, loving people can be very frustrating. How do we love the unlovable? Our typical strategy is to try harder. We might even say we are going to love that person even if it kills us!

I think we have forgotten a big step in processing God's love. The secret to loving is being loved. How do we live loved? We do so by drawing close to Christ, who will help us love the way we should.

Love your spouse, parents, children, and friends. As Christians we are to reflect Christ through our love. In Romans 12:9-13, the Apostle Paul makes it clear that Christian love always leads to action – deliberate and purposeful expression that glorifies God and ministers to His people. Many people tell us to love. Only God gives us the power to do so. Please listen to heaven's answer. God loves you – personally, powerfully and passionately. We must learn to love others in the same manner. We must allow God's love to penetrate our hearts. Are you doing that?

I do look forward to working and worshipping with you this month.

Pastor Wally

May 2008

Musing on Missions



Musing on Missions by Meryl Cook

The Area III ABWM Spring Rally was held April 12, at El Paso FBC. 54 ladies attended and most wore hats in keeping with the theme “Spring Bonnets and Bouquets”.

Ruth Peterson, President of GRR ABWM, gave a Power Point presentation “She’s My Sister”. This concerned the world wide problem of sex-trafficking. 600,000—800,000 women are trafficked annually across international borders. 14,500—17,500 are trafficked in the US. Runaway girls on the street are usually picked up within 48 hours. Children are often kidnapped, and others may be mail order brides. Some women have no other way to survive. Ruth challenged us to pray one minute a day for abused and trafficked women.

Several AB missionaries have a ministry with former prostitutes. These include: Melina Bates in Costa Rica, Debbie Kelsey in Italy, Sarah Chetti in Lebanon, Susan Liderman in Czech Republic and Bulgaria, Estela Schweissing in the Bahamas, Sarah West in Zambia, and Annie Dieselberg in Bangkok. Lauren Bethell is a Global Consultant now living in Prague, Czech Republic. She was director of the New Life Center in Thailand, which she established in 1987, until 2000.

Becky Glenn of Clinton, IL was a delightful motivational speaker. Her “bees” were Be grateful, Be bold, Be excited, Be surprising, and Be still. She advised us to “take your dreams out of mothballs and what did you do this week that only a Christian would

do?”

Joan Leitzen of Bloomington is the new Area III president. Berwick will host the Fall Rally, September 20. El Paso Church is celebrating their 150th anniversary this year.

Lawyers for the non-profit Center for Science in the Public Interest served Anheuser-Busch and Miller Brewing Company with notices of CSPI’s intent to sue the companies over a new generation of caffeinated alcoholic drinks. Drinks such as Anheuser-Busch’s Bud Extra and Tilt, and Miller’s Sparks have more alcohol than beer and contain stimulant additives that are not officially approved for use in alcoholic drinks, including caffeine, taurine, ginseng, or guarana. Research indicated the young consumers of what CSPI calls “alcospeed” are most likely to binge drink, become injured, ride with an intoxicated driver, or be taken advantage of sexually than drinkers of conventional alcoholic drinks. Marketing campaigns behind the drinks are clearly designed to appeal to young and underage drinkers.

Energy drinks mask the symptoms of drunkenness but not the drunkenness itself. Students may feel that they are ok to drive when physically they are intoxicated. 2.8 million college students drive drunk each year and is the number one killer in that age group. Energy drinks and alcohol don’t mix.

World Mission Conferences will be held in 4 locations during 2008. Those are May 16-18 in Cincinnati, OH; July 18-20 in Medford, OR; September 16-21 in Suffield, CT; and October 2-5 in Marshalltown, IA.

Whitney and Alan Brown, our missionaries in Greece, have purchased plane tickets and will be

flying to the US June 4 with intentions of returning to Greece in early December. To avoid the risk of losing their US Social Security, they must be out of Greece a minimum of 6 months. Whitney will be home-schooling all three girls. They ask that we pray that someone will rent their home in Thessalonica and care for their pets during their absence.

After more than 30 years as an underground house church movement, the Baptist Churches of Vietnam are moving into the public area. The church leaders came from every corner of Vietnam to attend their first "above ground" national training event. In October 2007, the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam had taken the first step toward recognizing Baptists as a legitimate religious body. To receive full recognition, a program to provide training to all BCV pastors was required. They turned to American Baptists for help. Rev. Dr. Stan Slade, a Global Consultant for Theological Educations, was able to respond immediately.

Baptist witness began by Southern Baptists in 1959. When communist North Vietnam won the war against South Vietnam in April of 1975, the Baptist movement almost vanished. Missionaries were forced to leave and even many Vietnamese pastors left the country.

One pastor, Nguyen Thong, relocated and provided for his family by running a motorbike taxi service. When the government became more open in the late 1980's, Thong returned to Saigon, which was renamed Ho Chi Minh city. He assisted a local congregation but all had to be done in secret because the Baptists were not a recognized group. On October 2, 2007, Pastor Thong and the BCV were granted recognition by the national government. During those years the movement had

grown to over 20,000 baptized believers in over 400 congregations.

BCV leaders boldly asked the government for a permit to hold a public worship service in Ho Chi Minh's Central Park. 12,000 people attended that service on December 19 and 1,500 gave their lives to Jesus Christ.

According to a 1999 census over 80% Vietnamese have no religion. Less than 1% are Protestant Christians.

Peggy Burke, 70, was the first American Baptist to serve as a volunteer in the communist country of Vietnam. She spent 6 months in an English speaking club to develop their language skill and rode a motorbike most places behind a Vietnamese woman driver. She said, "I went with the intent to build and develop authentic loving relationships and I was received by a fast growing Christian people".

Peggy is a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Columbus, OH.

Because of the high cost of postage (\$5.00 a pound), the Regional ABWM will not be collecting prescription bottles at the conference in June.

Birthdays:

May 2—Magda Aguirre, El Salvador, our new special

May 3—Wendy Bernhard, Congo, our new special

May 12—Mabudiga Nzunga, Haiti, our new special

May Bible Book—Lamentations



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4	-	Mike Carper	22	-	Don & Kathy Garlick (a) James Rule
5	-	Wilbert & Mary Hoff (a)	23	-	Ashley Derry
7	-	Steve & Lavon Smart (a)	24	-	Norma Blake Mike Foulk Kathy Garlick
9	-	Damion & Trissy Smith (a)	28	-	Michael Haley David & Christina Harman (a) Eileen Icenogle Phyllis Rule
15	-	Tyler Geltmacher	29	-	Zelma Harman
18	-	Bill Sanders			
20	-	Peggy Foulk			
21	-	John & Betty Adair (a)			



Saturday, May 3
9:00 a.m.
Creative Arts Ministry Team
Meeting at the Old Dairy



Sunday, May 4
1:30 p.m.
Voice Recital at FBC presented by
the students of Matt Brown



**Voice
Recital**



**Potluck
Dinner**

Sunday, May 4
5:00 p.m.
Potluck Dinner for the
Quarterly Business Meeting



Sunday, May 4
6:00 p.m.
Quarterly Business Meeting
(in Sanctuary)



**Quarterly
Business
Meeting**

Tuesday, May 6
6:30 p.m.
ABW Ministries at
Lafayette Square
Hostess: Alice
Bishop

American Baptist Women's Ministries



Sunday, May 11
Mother's Day



PASTORAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 13

6:00 p.m.

Pastoral Relations Committee
Meeting



Tuesday, May 13
6:30 p.m.
Boards Meet



May 2008



MEN'S MINISTRY

Saturday, May 17

7:30 a.m.

Men's Ministry at the old Dairy

Monday, May 26
Memorial Day—Office Closed



Saturday, May 31

10:00 a.m.

Year-end Teacher Meeting at FBC



First Baptist Church:

Thank you so much for your prayers and concern for me following my surgery at Cottage Hospital in Galesburg on March 10.

A big THANKS to Claudia for coming with Ruth and members of both our families...AND it was a long waiting time. We both appreciated it very much.

I hope to be released from Dr. care in 6 more weeks. Your prayers and well wishes are appreciated.

— Cavitt Hollis

Thank you for the lunch that you served to my family and friends the day of Bob's funeral.

Thanks again to Pastor Wally and Claudia for the service and songs.

Thank you for everything.



— Marjory Alexander



Thank you to everyone who participated in or helped with the Stewardship drive.

A special thank you to the Stewardship team for all of your work: Annette Carper, Ted Doxstader, Christina Harman, Claudia McCain, and Sandra Riggins.

Losses in Our Church Family



Lola Jolley—passed away on Tuesday, March 25, 2008



George Sims—passed away on Tuesday, April 1, 2008. Memorials may be made to either First Baptist Church of Macomb or the McDonough County Historical Society.



Robert Alexander—passed away on Monday, April 7, 2008. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Macomb.



Myrtle Nelson—passed away on Friday, April 11, 2008. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Ottawa. The address is:

*First Baptist Church
410 S. Hickory St.
Ottawa, KS 66067*

Kathryn S. Setser—passed away on Monday, April 28, 2008. She was Donna Marlow's mother.

Bible Quiz



Right after God granted Solomon his request for wisdom to govern, the wise king faced a dilemma about a baby. King Solomon ingeniously solved a dispute between two women who both claimed to be the child's mother (see 1 Kings 3:16-28).

But who was the mother of Solomon?

- A. Zipporah
- B. Abigail
- C. Queen of Sheba
- D. Bathsheba

The answer is in 2 Samuel 12:24.

Answer: D

Retaining a Sense of Wonder

A man who took a trip observed the majesty of the mountains, the colors of wildflowers and the magnetism of a stream where trout were swimming. He returned home saying, "I hope I never get used to the glory of nature."

None of us should "get used to" the goodness of God, the Good News of Christ, the inspiring music of a choir, the stories of great saints, the thoughtfulness of neighbors, the assistance of strangers and the uplifting laughter of children who haven't lost the gift of wonder.

The "M" Word

During a science lesson, a second-grade teacher demonstrated how a magnet can pick up metal objects such as nails and screws.

Afterward, she said, "My name begins with the letter 'm.' I pick up things with my power. What am I?"

A boy quickly answered, "You're a mother!"

A Word for Graduates

Congratulations to the young members of our congregation who are graduating! No doubt they look forward to the next phase of their lives with excitement, anticipation and perhaps a little apprehension.

We hope these words, adapted from Phillips Brooks, will serve graduates well as they embark on their journeys:

“Do not pray for an easy life; pray to be a stronger person. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers but for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you will be the miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.”



The Finest Hymn

Reginald Heber (1783-1826), a vicar and hymn-writer in England, was the first person to compile a hymnal based around the church calendar. He composed the beloved hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy” specifically for Trinity Sunday, with lyrics based on Revelation 4:8-11.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

The joyful song celebrates the eternal, omnipotent Triune God. Throughout the verses, Heber used units of three to symbolize the Trinity (God is “perfect in power, in love and purity”; God is worshiped by saints, cherubim and seraphim; and he’s praised “in earth and sky and sea”).

Heber, who witnessed much idol worship while serving as Bishop of Calcutta, often reaffirmed God’s holiness in his hymns.

British poet laureate Alfred Lord Tennyson so admired the uplifting language in “Holy, Holy, Holy” that he proclaimed it the finest hymn ever written.

Will You Accept the Challenge?

For the next few weeks, I challenge you to attain a higher standard of living and thereby experience a closer relationship with God. It is important to notice that it is not enough to simply be religious. These messages call for a commitment to serving God with all of your heart. My prayer is that these messages will encourage you to grow in your experience with God. Will you accept the challenge?

May 4

Why Not the Best?
Malachi 1:6-14

May 11

Like Mother/Like Child (Mother's Day)
Hebrews 11: 23, Acts 12:12, II Timothy 1: 5

May 18

What Does God Require of Us?
Deuteronomy 10:12-13

May 25

In Memory (Memorial Day)
Hebrews 11: 32-12: 3



1, 8, 15, 22, 29	6:30 p.m.	FBC Praise Team Practice
3, 10, 24, 31	7:30 a.m.	Men's Ministry at FBC
4, 11, 18, 25	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Worship Sunday School FBC Youth Group
5, 12, 19	7:00 a.m.	Breakfast at the Old Dairy
7, 14, 21, 28	3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Adult Small Group Study Adult Small Group Studies
3	9:00 a.m.	Creative Arts Ministry Team Meeting at the Old Dairy
4	1:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Voice Recital at FBC presented by the students of Matt Brown Potluck Dinner for Quarterly Business Meeting Quarterly Business Meeting
6	6:30 p.m.	ABW Ministries at Lafayette Square; Hostess: Alice Bishop
11		Mother's Day
13	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Pastoral Relations Committee Boards Meet
17	7:30 a.m.	Men's Ministry at the Old Dairy
26		Memorial Day—Office Closed
31	10:00 a.m.	Year-End Teacher Workshop at FBC

A HEART FOR Mom

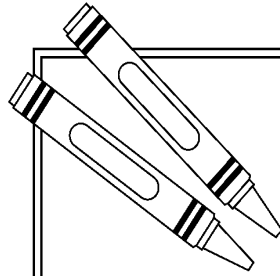
Show Mom how much you appreciate all she does for you with this "heartfelt" craft. Give it to her on Mother's Day.

What you need:

- Floral stem wire
- Dried cranberries (about 100, depending on the wire's length)
- Pliers
- Decorative ribbon (about 12 inches for each craft)
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Hole punch
- Crayons or markers

What you do:

1. With an adult's help, thread cranberries, one at a time with no space between them, onto the straight wire.
2. Bend the wire into a heart shape.
3. With pliers, twist the wire together at the top of the heart.
4. Tie ribbon to make a loop atop the heart (so your mom can hang it up).
5. Fold the paper into a card, and write a message of love and gratitude to your mom. You might want to add a verse from Proverbs 31 that best describes her.
6. Punch a hole in the card. Attach it to the ribbon that's tied to the heart.



Just for **KIDS**

A Mother of Noble Character

In Proverbs 31 (NIV), God provides the best example of a godly woman. Write the number of the sentence in the space next to the character quality it best describes.

- 1** "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies" (v. 10).
- 2** "She brings [her husband] good, not harm, all the days of her life" (v. 12).
- 3** "She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands" (v. 13).
- 4** "She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks" (v. 17).
- 5** "She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy" (v. 20).
- 6** "When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet" (v. 21).
- 7** "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" (v. 30).

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| ___ Caring | ___ Godly | ___ Prepared |
| ___ Hardworking | ___ Hearty | ___ Priceless |
| | ___ Kind | |

Answers: 1. priceless, 2. kind, 3. hardworking, 4. hearty, 5. caring, 6. prepared, 7. godly