

The Friendly Communicator

March 2024

PILLARS OF THE CHURCH

“Wisdom is found in the aged, and long life nourishes understanding.” Job 12:12

Bashua Cornwall, born in New York in 1820, was a charter member of our church as it was reorganized in Greenfield (now West Allis) in 1841. She lived to see women achieve the right to vote, and voted herself at age 101. She lived to age 103.

God blessed Bashua with longevity and God is similarly blessing many of our current members. Our congregation seems to have more than its fair share of octogenarians and nonagenarians. Even more remarkably, according to the records of the church clerk, five of our current members will celebrate, in 2024, **at least 70 years as members of First Baptist Church of West Allis.**

Those five pillars of our church, and the number of years of membership, as of 2024, are:

Richard Murdock (78 years)

Charlotte Jaeck (75 years)

Margery Krueger (75 years)

John Wothe (71 years)

Jane Zunker (70 years)

We congratulate these five on their long membership and thank them for their contributions to the life of the church over seven-plus decades!

How well do you know the pillars? Can you match their names with the clues below? *

- a. Former snowbird who now lives year-round in West Allis
- b. Downhill skier extraordinaire, immer noch
- c. Will welcome a sibling to the 70-year club next year
- d. Perennial volunteer at the American Baptist Assembly (now the Green Lake Conference Center)
- e. Lives on a haunted lake

* Answers will appear in the April Friendly Communicator

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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Adell Kupka
3	Dianna Brophey
4	Antonio Wothe
7	Karrie Napier
19	Rosemary Valdes
20	Kim Drost
29	Mary Schecher

If we have inadvertently missed your special day, please accept our apologies, and let the office know so we can change our records.

MARCH COMMUNION OFFERING

The **Communion Offering** for the month of March is designated for the Good Samaritan Outreach Center, 5924 W Burnham St, West Allis, WI 53219, 414 541-7668. The Good Samaritan Outreach Center offers emergency assistance, including food, clothing, and household items, to those in need. When someone from the neighborhood contacts the church seeking help, we often refer them to the Good Samaritan Outreach Center because of its proximity to our location. Your support of the ABMen's Spaghetti Dinner on March 10 will benefit the Outreach Center, too.

Guest Preachers in March

The Church Council is in the process of drafting an agreement to call Pastor Stephen as our Covenant Pastor (see page 6). In the meantime, here is the schedule of outstanding guest preachers, including Pastor Stephen, for March:

Sunday, March 3

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell,
Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin

Sunday, March 10

Rev. Dr. Charles Graves

Sunday, March 17

Rev. Sudie Jones

Palm Sunday, March 24

Rev. Sudie Jones

Easter Sunday, March 31

Pastor Stephen

Covenant Pastor

Plan to attend the listening session during Fellowship Time, Sunday, Mar 3. Make your voice heard!

Pastor Stephen will join the Church Council meeting at 8 p.m., Mon, Mar 11. As always, Council meetings are open to church members

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Men's Fellowship

SPAGHETTI DINNER



11:30 am, Sunday, March 10, 2024

Adults: \$10.00 Children under 12: \$5.00

**Good food with a great purpose with \$\$\$\$ going to the
Guest House and Good Samaritan
Outreach of West Allis.**

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Where is this room?

If you enter the church by the office door and go downstairs, you will see a door to your right at the bottom of the first flight of stairs. This is the door to the closet in which Christmas decorations are stored. Over many years, the closet fell into disrepair. John House has removed the damaged drywall and plaster and is tackling the restoration. ABMen have contributed \$500 to the General Fund of the church to cover the cost of materials. Many thanks to John House for supplying the manpower and expertise.

Men's Fellowship Spaghetti Dinner

The proceeds from the March 10 Spaghetti Dinner will benefit the Good Samaritan Outreach Center (see page 2) and the Guest House of Milwaukee. Guest House of Milwaukee, located at 1216 N 13th St, provides shelter, housing, education, and services to Milwaukee's homeless who seek to transform their lives with dignity and purpose.

For many years, our Men's Fellowship has conducted an ongoing clothing drive in support of the Guest House. We collect used men's winter clothing in the barrel in the Sunday School office and deliver it to the Guest House several times a year. Do you have men's clothes that you seldom wear? Donate them!

Suggested items for the third Sunday, Mar 17 food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Christian Center are **rice and body wash.**

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Musical Notes FROM THE DIREKTR

Lent. Fasting. Palm Sunday processions. Removing all decorations from the sanctuary. Prayer vigils. Passion plays. Tenebrae services. Foot washing. Good Friday services. The time leading up to Easter Sunday is filled with activity in the Christian church. Each of these activities have significance in the passion of Jesus. Each of these activities helps us walk through this time we call Lent and Holy Week.

Notice that this time is not one of doing nothing but waiting. It is a time of exploring our faith, deepening our understanding, and celebrating what Christ has done for us. It is a time for looking inward and discovering who we are in Christ and who we should be in Christ. The focal point of all this activity is worship.

Worship is active - a dialogue between God and us. It is also a dialogue between those who have gathered - one person to another. Worship gives us time and space to remember Christ's journey to the cross and renew our commitment to living our faith. Through this dialogue and our active participation in worship (songs, prayers, readings, listening), we can discover what God has done and what we need to do!

Mary Schecher

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What is a Covenant Pastor Agreement?

When a congregation and a pastor enter into a Covenant Pastor agreement, each party makes promises to the other. For example, the Covenant Pastor might promise to:

- ❖ Lead Sunday morning worship services
- ❖ Provide pastoral care by phone, email, Zoom, and in-person meetings, giving preference to members who are hospitalized or are in crisis situations, and holding regularly scheduled office hours at the church for at least two hours per week
- ❖ Help the congregation recover from a failed pastor-church relationship
- ❖ Assist in evaluating the internal structures (boards, committees, constitution and bylaws), internal organizations (ABMen, ABWomen's Ministries, Golden Guys and Gals), internal communication (newsletter, bulletin, emails), and the community outreach of the church
- ❖ Lead the congregation to better understand its values, vision, and mission
- ❖ Contribute a short monthly article for the newsletter and a brief monthly written report on the Covenant Pastor's activities for the Boards and Council
- ❖ Attend congregational meetings and meetings of the Pastoral Relations Committee
- ❖ Conduct weddings or funerals, as needed

The congregation, for its part, might promise to:

- ❖ Attend worship services and congregational meetings
- ❖ Attend workshops, trainings, and other activities as recommended by the Covenant Pastor and regional office, which may include conflict transformation, pastor-congregation relationship workshops, and others
- ❖ Provide financial support of the church's ministry and mission
- ❖ Maintain the church's fellowship
- ❖ Provide an office, desktop computer, and secretarial/administrative support services
- ❖ Hold meetings of the Pastoral Relations Committee upon completion of months 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15 of the initial term
- ❖ Be open to adaptive change through the Holy Spirit and the leadership of the Covenant Pastor

Also included in the agreement would be the length of the initial term (18 months, for example), the average number of hours per week the Covenant Pastor is expected to work (we anticipate at most 20 hours/week), the compensation that the church will provide, vacation policy, and mediation procedures.

Please direct your questions or comments to a member of the Church Council, and plan to attend the Listening Session during Fellowship Time on March 3. You are also welcome to attend the Church Council meeting at 8 p.m., Monday, March 11, at which Pastor Stephen will be present.