

The Friendly Communicator

June 2024

A Word from the Pastor

If you were to overhear someone talking about A.I., you'd probably assume they are talking about "Artificial Intelligence," but I want to invite us to talk about a different A.I. – "Appreciative Inquiry." This is a method of curious group exploration where we focus on the strengths and successes within our community. Rather than dwelling on any deficiencies, Appreciative Inquiry encourages us to identify and build upon what is already working well. As a church, this may help us recognize where the Holy Spirit is already moving among us, both personally and collectively.

The process of Appreciative Inquiry typically involves four key actions: (1) Discover, (2) Dream, (3) Design, and (4) Deliver. For now, I only want us to focus on Step 1 – Discover. Reflecting on our past experiences, let's identify the moments when we have felt most alive, connected, and inspired within our church community. Over the next two months, I invite each of you to participate in this process by sharing your stories, experiences, and reflections on what makes our church special to you. Whether it's a cherished memory, a meaningful interaction, or a particular aspect of our ministry that has touched your heart, I want to hear from you via email, an office visit, or a phone call throughout the months of June and July.

As the new guy, I foresee that your participation in this process will help me experience (if only vicariously) the amazing depth of God's work in this church. And as the seasoned participants in this congregation, your participation can help unlock new insights, deepen our connections, and co-create a future that reflects the best of who we are and who we aspire to be.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication to Christ's mission through the church. I look forward to embarking on this exciting journey of curiosity, exploration, and discovery with each of you.

With gratitude,

Pastor Stephen

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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4	Addison Wood
6	Elsie Seese
13	Alicia Valentyn-Jones
14	Elizabeth Tangen
15	McKenzie Brophay
18	Jovan Guerrero
18	Reynold House
19	Fred Wilson
23	Kathy Schuttenhelm
29	Gregory Krueger

JUNE ANNIVERSARY

7	John Jones & Katherine Valentyn, 16 years
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If we have inadvertently missed your special day, please let the office know—our apologies.

Grand Avenue Club

The **Communion Offering** for the month of June is designated for the Grand Avenue Club. The Grand Avenue Club is a diverse community of individuals who have a diagnosis of mental illness in common. By working together, its members discover abilities and build relationships that aid in recovery. Our church has its custodial work done through the Employment Program of the Grand Avenue Club.

The Clubhouse in Milwaukee, at 210 E Michigan St, is part of an international movement that consists of 320 clubhouses in 32 countries.

3G's Senior Safari

Golden Guys and Gals (3G's) will go on safari, Tuesday, June 25. No need to fly to Africa! It's free admission day for those 60 and older, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Milwaukee County Zoo, 10001 W Bluemound Rd.

3G's will meet in Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts, then carpool to the Zoo around 11 a.m.

You can bring your own lunch or buy lunch at the Zoo. We will adjust the length of the safari to accommodate the participants.

Please sign up in the Education Wing foyer.

ABW Ministries Potluck Picnic

The annual ABW Ministries potluck picnic will be held at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 29, at the Byleen's, 9322 W Garden Ct, Hales Corners, WI 53130

Scholarship Deadline

Students pursuing education beyond high school are invited to apply for a FBC scholarship. Deadline: June 1, 2024. The application form is posted on our website at firstbaptistwestallis.org

Trustees at Work

The Trustees have approved the purchase of a battery-powered lawn mower to be stored near the Lapham Street entrance. Stanley Holl has been hired to mow the church lawn this year starting in June.

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April 2024	
Financial Income Report	
General Receipts	
Envelopes	\$9,093.00
Loose Offerings	54.25
Church School	144.26
Easter	5.00
Total	\$9,296.51
Miscellaneous Receipts	
Pow Wow	\$50.00
Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church	300.00
ABF Scholarship Fund (dividend)	728.33
Total	\$1,078.33
Communion Offering	
Project Focal Point	200.00
Total	\$200.00
Memorial Fund	
Sharon Arnold	2,735.00
Total	\$2,735.00
Mission Offering	
America for Christ	145.00
Grand Avenue Club	150.00
Milwaukee Christian Center	150.00
Total	\$445.00
Deposited Total	\$13,754.84

The Lord's Prayer

A 3-week Bible study, led by Mary Schecher, meets Tuesdays, 11:00 to 12:00 noon in the church parlor.

Suggested items for the third Sunday (June 16) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Christian Center are **canned meat** (tuna, spam, or chicken) and **toothpaste**.

Community Outreach

Have you wanted to know more about the organizations that FBWA supports each month? Me too!

There are many services these organizations provide from mental health support to housing, laundry, meal programs, legal support and more. Maybe you or someone you know could benefit from these services if only they knew about them. FBWA supports St Ben's meal program every 5th Thursday of the month. Did you know that Capuchin community services in addition to its meal program has programs to help homeless individuals do their laundry and have access to showers, food, and temporary shelter? Next time there is an opportunity to volunteer on a Thursday come see what it is all about. If you need help with a ride that can be arranged. Better yet join their Walk for the Hungry on June 14th at 6 pm at Polishfest.

Street Angels is an organization that is near and dear to us at FBWA because of all the work they do for homeless individuals. You may have heard about their new shower trailer which provides showers to homeless people where they are. You can see their shower trailer live and in person at their fundraising event right here in West Allis. On Sat, June 22nd they will be having a "Singing in the Streets" fundraiser from 12 to 4pm at Kegel's Inn at 5901 W. National Ave. You can even contribute to their wish list of needed items by going on Amazon and searching out "Showers of Hope Wishlist".

Would you like to be a part of planning visits to see some of the other organizations FBWA supports? Join the Board of Christian Education in the Church Parlor at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, June 9th before church to find out more. If you have questions, feel free to contact me.

Catherine Wood (catludwig@yahoo.com)

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Musical Notes . . . FROM THE DIREKTR

It is truly difficult to find the right words to thank a group of people that do the following week after week:

Leave their home or job	Come to rehearsals
Put the best effort into practicing	Encourage each other when we make mistakes
Laugh at the director's weak jokes	Make time to pray together
Tackle a piece of music until they conquer it	Support each other as we grow as musicians
Willingly participate in worship	Share their music in the community
Be a blessing to the congregation	Eat all provided snacks

In this day and age, it is difficult to put aside all worldly things to participate in the life of the church. Our musicians do this e-v-e-r-y week! Please thank them and pray for them as they rest over the summer. We want them back in the fall and hope you will consider joining one of these wonderful groups.

Mary Schecher

70th ANNIVERSARY REDEDICATION OF THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

For the first 25 years of our "new" sanctuary, the church only had plain glass windows all around. But one of our long-time members, Mrs. Lisle Horton (ridiculously in those days married women were only identified by their connection to their husbands!) wanted a stained glass window to be installed as a Memorial to her late husband. The idea caught on and the project grew to encompass replacing all of the windows in the main building.

As the years passed the window sections slowly began to deteriorate. So the congregation decided that all of them should be restored to their former glory. The project took about ten years to complete, one window at a time. Finally, in 2023 the final window was reinstalled.

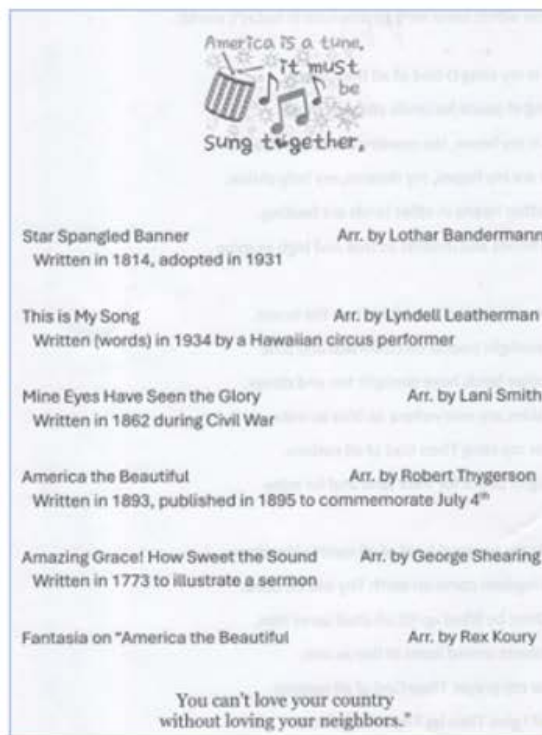
Now, on the 70th Anniversary of the original installation in 1954 (the 95th Anniversary of the sanctuary), we will have a Rededication Service of the newly refurbished windows on June 9 during our regular church service. Pastor Stephen will also be speaking over the course of several Sundays about the various themes in the windows (Fellowship, Baptism, Communion, etc.). So mark your calendars and plan on attending **the June 9 Rededication Service** to join in celebration. Jesus is The Light of the World – and His light shines brightly through those windows!

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Historical Reflections: Golden Guys and Gals Concert

The Golden Guys and Gals gathered together on May 9th to enjoy Mary Schecher's musical talents. When we arrived, we received a program, just like attending a Milwaukee Symphony concert.



The song selections were great. Mary got a true work out, especially during the 1862 "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Most of us view the organ as a large keyboard instrument. However, there are three tiers of foot pedals that dramatically add to the sound and workload.



Mary's feet moved faster and longer than most soldiers did at the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg!

After the music, all 16 of us traveled to Steak House 100 (73rd and Greenfield) and enjoyed great food and conversation.



This is the 97th of periodic historical articles.

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BELLS RING IN SPRING AT LIBRARY SQUARE



The Jubilation Ringers presented a musical evening at the Library Square senior living facility, just a few blocks down the street from our *church* (no matter what their sign above says!). There was a standing room only crowd of residents and church members in the facility's spacious lobby as our bell choir played such well-known numbers as *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*, *Day by Day*, *Jesus Loves Me*, and *Amazing Grace*, among others. Mary Schecher led the choir and, along with Tami Keinert, formed a duet to play *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, accompanied by Karl Byleen on the piano. The audience joined along in some singing and a few of them even tried their hands at playing a bell (as you can see in the above photo!). The program was very well-received with many compliments and much applause. Good community outreach for First Baptist of West Allis! (All photos courtesy of Sue Moreno)

