

The Friendly Communicator

August 2024

A Word from the Pastor

I'm writing this month's article, having just received a tour of the church's history room upstairs. A special thanks to John Wothe, our former historian, for spending so much time with me highlighting some of the artifacts from First Baptist's really neat ministries to this area...some from before there was even a West Allis! If you haven't been up to the history room in a while, I encourage you to go check it out again soon. Perhaps it will help jog your memory about other cherished times for the church.

Please join us downstairs after worship on Sunday, July 28th, where we will share stories about times when you've felt connected, inspired, or supported by God through the church. (Feel free to bring an object to "show" as you "tell" us about your memories.)

Since this is the August newsletter, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the Wisconsin State Fair! According to their website, last year 1,043,350 people attended the fair...many of whom probably parked in our neighborhood, walking by our church front doors. One story preserved in photograph in our history room shows how the church used to sell meals inside the Baptist Dining Hall, located inside the fairgrounds! What a great way to serve the community! As we enjoy the fair and the month of August, let's keep telling our story...and in doing so, let's continue making Christ known!

With gratitude,

Pastor Stephen

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AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Lorna Stoecker
- 8 Samantha Moreno
- 9 Alex Moreno
- 10 Jon Gage
- 18 Rev. John Jones IV
- 22 Steve Brown
- 22 Richard Murdock
- 30 Casey Brophay

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Drew & Tara Hettich, 28 years
- 11 Bill & Kathy Schuttenhelm, 45 years
- 15 John & Linda House, 25 years
- 16 Peter & Sue Moreno, 38 years
- 24 Rev. Charles & Brenda Graves, 61 years
- 28 Rob & Sarah Smith, 14 years

If we have inadvertently missed your special day, please let the office know—our apologies.

Summer Singers

Are you a member of the choir? A former member? A secret member? Do you want to be a member?

Then join us at 10:00 am in the choir rehearsal room on the last Sunday of each summer month. We will practice a very easy song to sing in worship. Everyone and anyone is welcome!

Suggested items for the third Sunday (Aug 18) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Christian Center are **pasta sauce** and **toothbrushes**.

Come to the Corn Roast!

Everyone is invited to the Annual Corn Roast sponsored by the ABMen after worship on Sunday, August 18. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. In addition to the featured item (corn on the cob), hamburgers, hotdogs, brats and side dishes will be served. Would you like to contribute to the menu? Desserts would be appreciated.



We hope to see you on the church lawn for the August 18 Corn roast!

Golden Guys and Gals

Members of the 3G's: Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 11. That's the day we'll enjoy our annual picnic and boat ride at the home of Debb and Jeff Jaeck on beautiful Phantom Lake in Mukwonago. Please see the September edition of the *Friendly Communicator* for further details.

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June 2024	
Financial Income Report	
General Receipts	
Envelopes	\$11,925.00
Loose Offerings	196.55
Church School	183.00
Total	\$12,304.55
Miscellaneous Receipts	
Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church	600.00
Camp Scholarship Fund	90.00
Secret Place	22.00
Total	\$712.00
Communion Offering	
Grand Avenue Club	130.00
Total	\$130.00
Memorial Fund	
Sharon Arnold	100.00
Total	\$100.00
Mission Offering	
One Great Hour of Sharing	408.00
Grand Avenue Club	150.00
Milwaukee Christian Center	150.00
Total	\$708.00
Deposited Total	\$13,854.55

A note from Jon Gage and family

Thank you to Pastor Stephen for spiritual guidance, to Mary for the memorial service music, and to the congregation for the many prayers and cards during Joy's illness and passing. Also, thank you to the ladies of the church for providing the delicious luncheon following Joy's memorial service.

Milwaukee Christian Center

The Communion Offering for August is designated for the Milwaukee Christian Center. Please be generous!

The Milwaukee Christian Center (MCC), located at 807 S 14th Street in Milwaukee, is a multi-service organization that works to build strong neighborhoods full of opportunity. The MCC's work is centered on four core areas: housing, youth development, older adults, and food security. It serves more than 7,500 people each year.

Our member John A. Jones IV serves on the MCC's Board of Directors. Each month, FBC collects and donates food and hygiene items to the MCC.

The MCC had its roots in 1921 when the Woman's American Baptist Church Home Mission Society appointed missionary Mamie Passolt MacKinney to develop a center to serve the needs of newly arrived immigrants and other neighbors on Milwaukee's south side. Notably, Passolt MacKinney pioneered the first Head Start style program in Milwaukee 44 years before the Federal Head Start program began in 1965. Other firsts for MCC include the first Golden Age Club and the first Elderly Nutrition Program in the county.

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Musical Notes

FROM THE DIREKTR

According to Brian Hehn, the Director of the Center for Congregational Song, these are the four functions of a church choir.

- ◆ **The church choir leads and enlivens the congregation's song.**
- ◆ **The church choir sings music that the congregation cannot.**
- ◆ **The church choir serves as a small group within the church for faith formation.**
- ◆ **The church choir sings beautiful and challenging music to praise God and edify the congregation.**

I think each one is self-explanatory and important, but I personally think that the third one is the most important.

Many people are afraid of joining the choir because they feel they can't sing at a high enough level. Well, if you don't join and let me help you improve, then you will always stay where you are in terms of singing. **BUT**, if you join the choir, you will improve your singing **AND** build a support group of people who will always be there for you and you will develop your faith. What a deal!

Mary Schecher

<p>PARKING DURING STATE FAIR: As in previous years, we have permission to park without charge at Dottke High School, in the spaces near the gym door, on Sunday, Aug 4 and Sunday, Aug 11, from 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.</p>

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Fellowship



In memory of Lisle Horton

The idea of fellowship is symbolized by the two clasped hands. As children of God all are brethren, regardless of race and nationality. To stress this brotherhood of the different races one hand is depicted in a light flesh tone, and the other in a darker tone. The sunflower, which always turns to the sun, suggests that we should turn to God, the only source of grace and truth.

The Fellowship Window will be the topic of an August sermon.

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Historical Reflections:

Joy Janice Gage

Entered God's presence on June 27, 2024, at the age of 85 after a brave battle with cancer. Born to Ralph McBride, Sr. and Marie McBride (Winchell) on January 10, 1939, in Des Moines, Iowa. Her uncle and aunt, Russell and Vera McBride, also played a vital role in her upbringing. Joy is survived by her devoted husband, Jon, who has been the love of her life and her closest friend for the past sixty-three years.

Joy was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and friend to others. Proud mother of David, Daniel (Kathy) and Dr. Jennifer Gage-Nielsen (Frank Nielsen). Loving grandmother of Eric (Dr. Connie), Sydney and Julia Nielsen. She is further survived by brother Quinn McBride (Norma), brother-in-law Alan Gage (Judy), cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and two brothers.

After the death of her mother, she went to live with her uncle and aunt in Des Moines. Encouraged by Russell and Vera to attend college she enrolled in Grand View College and, in 1958, the University of Iowa. In 1958, she fell in love with Jon, and they married in the summer of 1960. Both took jobs in the Milwaukee area that same summer.

With her degree in education, Joy taught first grade in the Cudahy Public School District for 3 years before staying home to care for her children. In 1982, she returned to teaching in Cudahy and earned a masters degree in education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1990. Joy's teaching career spanned a period of over 20 years and she profoundly impacted numerous lives.

Joy was a devoted believer in Jesus Christ and demonstrated her faith with over 60 years of Christian service to the former Bay View Baptist Church, and more recently, the First Baptist Church of West Allis.

Joy was a very active person, enjoying golf, tennis and gardening and in her younger days horseback riding on her Palomino horse "Star". In retirement she volunteered her time to children's education at the Milwaukee County Zoo, time to a friend's kindergarten classroom and knitting many "Sweaters For Kids" for World Vision. With Jon, she enjoyed attending Symphony Pops concerts and visiting the Zoo and Milwaukee Art Museum. She read many books each year and loved to visit with friends in her book club.

Joy and Jon had many travel adventures together. With the kids they traveled to many places in the United States and enjoyed a wonderful trip with Jon's parents and brother's family to Hawaii. In later years they traveled to Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, the Caribbean and enjoyed several trips to Europe. Joy and John always looked forward to wintering in Naples, Florida and did so for 20 years.



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The family wishes to thank Tudor Oaks and Brighton Hospice for their kind and compassionate care for Joy.



In lieu of flowers, memorials in Joy's name to First Baptist Church of West Allis <https://www.firstbaptistwestallis.org/> or the American Cancer Society <https://donate.cancer.org/> are appreciated.

Visitation will be held on Saturday July 6, 2024, from 10 AM until the time of service at 12 PM at FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WEST ALLIS 1576 S. 78th Street PM at FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WEST ALLIS 1576 S. 78th Street, West Allis, Wisconsin. [Church and Chapel]

Joy joined our church with her husband Jon in 2007. She was active in the chancel choir, and Golden Guys and Gals.

Historical Reflections:

Gerald Gene Jashinsky

July 5, 1935 - May 27, 2024

Preceded in death by his wife, Kay (nee Inglis), parents Adolph and Mabel Jashinsky, brother, Alvin and sister, Eileen. Survived by children, Sara (Ray) Koscak, James (Karen) Jashinsky and Craig Jashinsky, grandchildren, Raymond (Meghan) Koscak, Daniel (Meghan) Koscak, Krysta Koscak, Eric Jashinsky and Adam Jashinsky, great grandchildren, RJ Koscak, Millie Koscak and Aubree Koscak. Also many friends and relatives.



Retired from WA Krueger. Member of the Prospect Lions Club in New Berlin, scout leader of the Boy Scouts of America (Waukesha County), member of the 1st Baptist Church in West Allis. Served in the Air National Guard. Gerald enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, fishing, sailing and gardening.



Gathering at Krause Funeral Home, 12401 West National Avenue, New Berlin, Wisconsin on Thursday, June 6, 2024 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Service at 6:00 PM. Private urn burial at Highland Memorial Park. [Krause]



He joined our Church in 2015. He was on the Christian Education Board as well the Diaconate Board. He also was involved in the Golden Guys and Gals.

This is the 99th of periodic historical articles