

# The Friendly Communicator

## September 2024

### A Word from the Pastor

The last Sunday in July, we held a special event in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour called “Sharing Our Stories.” I want to thank our church historians, John and Ted, for helping prepare for this event as we journeyed through time together in the history room, searching for stories of our past to tell. But I also want to thank everyone else who participated in this time of sharing the stories that have shaped both First Baptist Church and each of you personally.

The questions I asked, which guided our discussion together were:

- When have you felt most connected to our church community?
- When have you felt inspired and engaged with our church’s mission of “making Christ known”?
- Is there a program, a person, or a place that has helped you feel close to God in the last 3-5 years?

Based on these questions, we compiled the following list:

*Our Stories*

*WWII Christmas letter*  
*“Miss Nancy” teaching children*  
*Bazaar*  
*Personal relationships on weekly basis*  
*Warm welcome & showing care*  
*Family*  
*Men’s Winter Retreats*  
*Choir Fest music programs*  
*Refugee congregations (VBS drivers’ ed)*  
*Sibling churches*  
*AAA group*

Perhaps since this event, you’ve thought of even more responses to these questions. My hope is that these are just some of the *many* examples of where we see God moving among us. As a follow-up to this time of storytelling, I’d like to now consider:

- What do these stories have in common?
- Whose needs were being met in these stories? And how?

Perhaps these commonalities reveal something unique about who we are at First Baptist...about who God has called us to be in the past, and who God calls us to be now and in the future. I look forward to continuing these conversations with you. It’s a blessing to hear your stories.

With gratitude,

Pastor Stephen

[rev.stephen.hawkins@gmail.com](mailto:rev.stephen.hawkins@gmail.com)

Office: (414) 258-7400

Emergencies: (414) 522-8030

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## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Stanley Holl
- 8 Bill Schuttenhelm
- 9 Craig Holl
- 13 Charlotte Jaeck
- 14 John House
- 19 Kathy Vichich
- 19 Brittany Radakovich
- 24 Lynn Stoecker
- 25 Ramon Hernandez
- 25 Owen Thayer
- 28 Haley Daly
- 30 John Wothe

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 23 Mike & Pat Shawgo, 46 years
- 28 Brian & Dianna Brophay, 28 years

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

## Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations Committee will meet at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 3 in the church parlor. If you have suggestions or concerns, please put them in the suggestion box in the sanctuary foyer or pass them on to a member of the Committee.

## Choir Rehearsals Resume

Regular choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 4: Handbells rehearse at 6:30 pm and the Chancel Choir at 7:30 pm.

## Golden Guys and Gals

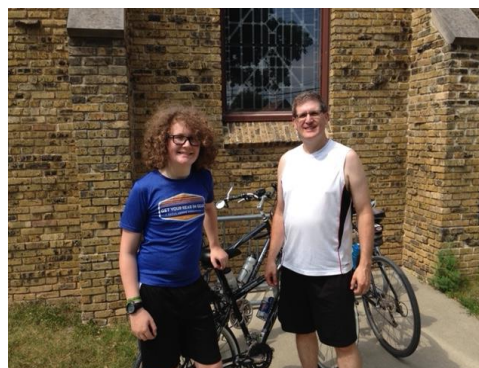
At 11 am on Wednesday, September 11, the 3G's will picnic and cruise on beautiful Phantam Lake at the home of Debb and Jeff Jaeck in Mukwonago. Please bring what you'd like to grill and a dish to share. There is a signup sheet in the Education Wind foyer. If you indicate on the signup sheet that you would like transportation to and from the event, we'll be happy to arrange it for you.

## Fall Cleaning at FBC

Please join us from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon on Saturday, September 21, for fall cleaning at the church. When you arrive, you will be able to choose from a selection of tasks, from light cleaning to more strenuous landscaping. Your help will be appreciated, even if you are only able to stay for part of the morning.

## Annual Bike Ride

Still energetic after the Sept 21 fall cleaning? Then join us on that same day for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual bike ride on the Hank Aaron State Trail. Bikers of all ages and all abilities are welcome! The length of the ride will be adjusted to accommodate all who show up at the church at 3 pm, Saturday, Sept 21.



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### July 2024 Financial Income Report

**General Receipts**

Envelopes	\$8,194.00
Loose Offerings	137.75
Church School	143.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,474.75</b>

**Miscellaneous Receipts**

Pow Wow	50.00
American Baptist Foundation (dividend)	727.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$777.96</b>

**Communion Offering**

Eras Senior Network	93.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$93.00</b>

**Memorial Fund**

Sharon Arnold	10.00
Joy Gage	1745.00
Gerald Jashinsky	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,855.00</b>

**Mission Offering**

One Great Hour of Sharing	515.00
Grand Avenue Club	150.00
Milwaukee Christian Center	150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$815.00</b>

**Deposited Total** **\$12,015.71**

### Kodiak Baptist Mission

The Communion Offering for September is designated for the Kodiak Baptist Mission.

Today, the Kodiak Baptist Mission is an innovative Christian mission that specializes in children and family ministries. It is located on Kodiak Island, about 250 miles southwest of Anchorage, Alaska.

Our members Klaus and Jane Zunker visited the Kodiak Baptist Mission on one of their travels.

The Kodiak Baptist Mission had its roots in 1891 when the American Baptist Churches sent a young couple, the Roscoe's, to start a school on Kodiak Island. They discovered many destitute children living on the streets and reported that an orphanage was a more urgent need than a school. The American Baptist Women's Home Mission Society funded the orphanage. The Roscoe's provided a home and Christian training to the children of the orphanage, 30 children at the end of the first year, 50 children by the end of the second. A day school and Sunday school were soon established.

The autobiography of Frederic Roscoe, son of the missionaries, is recommended reading: *From Humboldt to Kodiak, 1886-1895, Recollections of a Frontier Childhood and the Founding of the First American School and the Baptist Mission at Kodiak, Alaska.*

Suggested items for the third Sunday (Sept 15) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Christian Center are **peanut butter & jelly** and **toilet paper**.

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### Musical Notes

### FROM THE DIREKTR

Recently, I read a blog that included the following list:

- Major improvements in physical health....
- Major improvements in mental health....
- Builds a sense of community with others....
- Develops a feeling of altruism and activism....

Hard to tell what activity the blogger is talking about until you continue reading and find this:

- Improves your singing and speaking voice....
- Improves your musicianship....
- Spiritual enrichment for yourself and your congregation....

There are many activities that might fit the first four bullet points but there is only one activity that can satisfy the last three. While all of these are important, the last one is the most important one – developing our own faith and assisting in the development of the faith of our community.

There is enough stress and strain in our world, and we need to do something to counteract the pressures of life. Yes, our lives are busy but it is important to take time for ourselves and to make time for others.

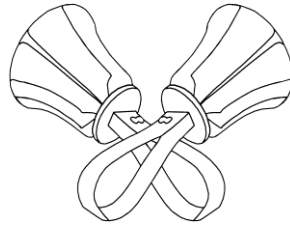
One hour a week – that is a small investment in something that pays huge benefits. Join us on September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 and begin to reap the benefits!

*Mary Schecher*

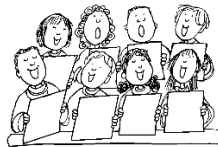
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## **Choir Rehearsals Return! Mark Your Calendars**



**September 4<sup>th</sup> – 6:30**  
**Jubilation Ringers**



**September 4<sup>th</sup> – 7:30**  
**Chancel Choir**

**Come and join us as we serve through music**



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## Prayer



**In memory of Luella Cooke**

The symbol in the window illustrates Psalm 141:2, "Let my prayer be counted as incense before thee and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice." The design shown is the praying hands and a censor from which the clouds of incense rise towards heaven.

**The Prayer Window will be the topic of a September sermon.**

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### Historical Reflections:

### 2024 Corn Roast



We gathered together on the Church lawn on Sunday, August 18, 2024, for the annual men's corn roast. No rain, moderate temperature, lots of corn, hamburgers, brats, hot dogs and desserts led to a great time of fellowship. Additionally, we earned a net of \$615 for missions/projects. Thanks to all for a great time.



*This is the 100<sup>th</sup> of periodic historical articles*



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### Scholarship Awards

On Sunday, August 18, the Diaconate awarded \$500 scholarships to six students who are furthering their education beyond high school: Daniel Caswell (Florida Gulf Coast University), Violet Caswell (Southeastern University), Sarah Holl (Waukesha County Technical School), Ing Ying (Marquette University), Wah Phaw (UW-Milwaukee), and Grace Phaw (UW-Parkside).



Daniel and Violet are children of our member Michelle Caswell, and grandchildren of John Wothe, who represented them at the award presentation. Our member Sarah Holl was unable to attend on August 18, so her father, Craig Holl, accepted the award on her behalf. Ing, Wah, and Grace are members of the Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church (MMCC), which has worshiped in our sanctuary at 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoons since June of 2022.

After several years in which no scholarship applications were received, the congregation voted to extend the application criteria in 2024 from members and children of members of First Baptist Church to include members of MMCC. The Diaconate was excited to receive so many excellent applications and is pleased that money in the scholarship fund is again being put to good use.

### MMCC Calls New Pastor

The Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church has called Rev. Tina Aliq Ong as its new pastor. Pastor Tina served a church in Omaha, Nebraska before moving to Milwaukee this summer with his wife, Hkawn Nu, daughter Nang Nang, and sons Pongsar, Myuram, and Daniel. The three boys are regular attendees at our Sunday School.

### Kickoff Breakfast

Everyone is invited to the Sunday School Kickoff Breakfast at 9 am, Sunday, September 8. The breakfast is prepared by ABMen. Enjoy good fellowship, learn about our campers' experiences this past summer at Camp Tamarack, and support the Sunday School program.