

# The Friendly Communicator

## April 2024

### MISSION EDUCATION UPDATE

In the March 2024 edition of *United Mission Matters* from ABC-USA, Rev. Stacy Emerson contrasts **transactional giving** with **transformational giving**.

Rev. Emerson writes that transactional giving, that is, giving in order to get something in return, “feeds into a scarcity mindset and fuels our anxiety for never having enough. When we engage giving and generosity as the heart of discipleship, however, we have an opportunity to expand our thinking and our hearts. Stewardship then becomes more about our efforts to link into God’s holy work with and through us in the world, It becomes transformational.”

Generosity as transformation--what a wonderful way to think about the support that we offer our community partners and our national and global partners. It is through generosity--our embracing giving as discipleship--that we transform the lives of others.



Can we cure every ill of the world? No. But Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Just as we want to be clothed and fed, housed and happy, so do other people in this world. Bit by bit, we can make that happen--we can transform the lives of others through our generosity. Expand your thinking. Open your heart and help to transform the world!

Mary Schecher

Mission Education Chair

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Here are the answers to last month’s quiz about pillars of First Baptist Church:

- a. Margery Krueger is the former snowbird who now lives year-round in West Allis
- b. John Wothe is the downhill skier extraordinaire
- c. Jane Zunker will welcome a sibling to the 70-year club next year
- d. Richard Murdock is the perennial volunteer at Green Lake
- e. Charlotte Jaeck lives on Phantom Lake

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### Introducing Pastor Stephen

First Baptist Church is working on an agreement that would call Pastor Stephen as Covenant Pastor. He would serve in a part-time position for an initial term of 18-months.

Stephen was born and raised in Indiana. He is a graduate of Anderson University, Princeton Theological Seminary (MDiv), and Marquette University (MBA). He served as the Pastor of First Baptist Church of Beloit from 2012-2016. It was in Beloit that Stephen met his wife Maren, who welcomed him to the neighborhood by baking a terrific apple pie.

Stephen and Maren served in the Peace Corps in Uganda from 2016-2017. Since returning from Uganda, they have supported the ministries of our sister church, Underwood Memorial Baptist, where Stephen served as the worship committee chair, pastoral relations committee chair, and moderator. Stephen has been a program director for the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee and served on numerous committees with the Wisconsin Council of Churches. He is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in sociology at UW-Milwaukee, and envisions a bi-vocational career as a pastor and college instructor. Maren

is a public health professor at Carroll University.

Stephen and Maren have a 6-year-old son, Jordan. They also serve the community as licensed foster parents. In addition to family time, Stephen enjoys watching the Milwaukee Brewers, going for bike rides, spending time in nature, and walking his two dogs (Eddie & Poppy).

Pastor Stephen will be our guest preacher throughout the month of April. Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet him, get to know him, and welcome him to First Baptist Church.

#### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Drew Hettich
8	Carol Burns
16	Martha Valentyn-Jones
18	Marilyn Hazard
26	Jacob Schuttenhelm
27	Jeff Stoecker
28	Trini Maldonado
29	Sue Moreno

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

The Communion Offering for April is designated for **Project Focal Point**, 811 W Burleigh St in Milwaukee. Its goal is to meet the spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional needs of seniors, allowing them to remain in their homes as long as possible.

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### Combined Jan and Feb 2024 Financial Income Report

<b>General Receipts</b>	
Envelopes	\$15,655.00
Loose Offerings	180.00
Church School	263.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,158.00</b>

<b>Receipts</b>	
Initial Offering	\$49.00
Pow Wow	\$50.00
Camp Tamarack	185.00
Milw Myanmar Christian Church	300.00
Secret Place	4.00
Jean Nowakowski estate	4,723.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,126.79</b>

<b>Communion Offering</b>	
Fellowship Fund	\$165.00
St. Ben's Community Meal	140.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$305.00</b>

<b>Mission Offering</b>	
Retired Ministers & Missionaries	\$35.00
America for Christ	50.00
Grand Avenue Club	300.00
Milwaukee Christian Center	300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$685.00</b>

**Deposited Total                    \$22,274.79**

### New Bible Study

A new 6-week Bible study on Women of the Bible, led by Mary Schecher, meets Tuesdays starting April 9, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Church Parlor.

The suggested items for the third Sunday (April 21) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Christian Center are **soup/ravioli** (no ramen noodles, please) and **shampoo/conditioner**.

### Quarterly Business Meeting

Plan to attend the Sunday, April 21 potluck and congregational meeting after worship. The Church Council will present two important recommendations to the congregation for its approval: (1) A 2024 Proposed Budget to replace the 2024 Provisional Budget that the congregation approved last October; and (2) A proposed agreement that would call Pastor Stephen to serve our church as Covenant Pastor in a part-time position for an initial term of 18 months.

### 3G's Activities

Seven members of the 3G's group enjoyed a light lunch and informative presentation at the Zablocki Library on February 28. After the presentation, the group adjourned to the nearby Omega Restaurant for dessert and fellowship.

Please mark your calendars for the 3G's next outing, 11:30 a.m., Thursday, May 9 in the church sanctuary. An organ mini-concert by Mary Schecher is back by popular demand, followed by lunch. See the next Communicator for details.

### A note from Ted Hertel, Jr.

Thanks to everyone for all the cards, calls, and prayers during my convalescence following heart bypass surgery earlier this year. They were truly appreciated and helped speed my recovery and return to church. It's good to be back.

Best,  
Ted Jr.

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### Musical Notes

### FROM THE DIREKTR

Easter is such a busy season for the church. Lots of preparation, rehearsals, decorations, services – it can be tiring. It is our tradition for the choirs to take a little vacation the week after Easter. They have worked very hard to provide music throughout the Lenten season.

When we return to rehearsals on April 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be exactly 6 weeks before we take our summer break. What a perfect time for you to come and join the choir or the bells on Wednesday evenings and give it a try. Only 6 weeks of commitment and you will see what goes on in a rehearsal. It isn't all music. It is prayer and fellowship along with laughter and sometimes tears. It is family.

6 weeks – such a small investment for such a large return.

*Mary Schecher*

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### Historical Reflections:

Lynn R Kelly



#### Lynn R. Kelly

APPLETON - Born to Life October 24, 1947. Took her Lord's hand on February 28, 2024.

Lynn is preceded in death by her parents Robert and Lillian and furry friends Kimba, Patsy and Mitzi. Those who remember her include her brother Bob, friends Lylette Smith, Alan and Laverne Johnson, Carol Shackelford and other friends including Kermit the

Frog, Tweety Bird and Jr. the Monkey. Lynn was a member of the American Legion Post #449 Auxilliary. Services will be held on Tuesday March 5 At First Baptist Church in West Allis. Visitation from 10:00 am until the time of service at 12:00 pm.

#### MOLTHEN-BELL

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Lynn Kelly

(1997 Church directory)

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024 | MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Lynn and her brother Bob joined our church in 1994. Lynn was active in various roles as a member of the nominating committee, Diaconate, and board of Christian education before moving with Bob to Appleton a decade ago.

*This is the 95<sup>th</sup> of periodic historical articles*

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### Proposed Covenant Pastor Agreement

In early April, you will receive by mail a copy of the proposed Covenant Pastor Agreement with Pastor Stephen that will be presented to the congregation for approval at the April 21 quarterly business meeting. The portion of the document that outlines the promises made by the Covenant Pastor and the congregation appears below:

The **Covenant Pastor** will be responsible to the congregation at large and specifically to the Church Council of First Baptist Church. The Covenant Pastor will provide pastoral leadership for 20 hrs/wk, and agrees to:

- ❖ Lead Sunday morning worship services (10 hrs/wk, including preparation time).
- ❖ 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 in January, April, and October and meetings of the Pastoral Relations Committee. Attend Council meetings as time permits and attend Board meetings upon a Chair's invitation.
- ❖ Conduct weddings or funerals, as needed.

The **congregation** will support the Covenant Pastor with prayer and agrees 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.
- ❖ Sustain lay leadership and shared ministries.
- ❖ Maintain the church's fellowship.
- ❖ Provide an office, desktop computer, and secretarial/administrative support services.
- ❖ Hold meetings of the Pastoral Relations Committee (whose members are the Pastor, Moderator, and three Board chairs) every other month of the initial term.
- ❖ Be open to adaptive change through the Holy Spirit and the leadership of the Covenant Pastor.