

The Friendly Communicator

February 2023

From the Pastor's Desk. . .

“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put childish ways behind me.” 1 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)

This year, I want us to focus on our Christian education and individual spiritual growth and development. Growth is essential on your Christian journey. For Christians, this is a recurring theme found throughout the Bible. Of course, we begin our journey as babes, but as we take in the words of God and are nurtured and fed by soul food, we find ourselves growing and becoming more Christ-like. This growth is not only wholesome for you but for the body of Christ as well—the church. As you feed on God’s word in your heart, you can sense that some of your perceptions may change. Your understanding is enhanced, and you hear and receive things differently. Your mind, your heart, and your ways change. That is what the church is for—for you to grow and develop spiritually and become mature Christians.

Grow up in your faith, develop strong spiritual muscles, and stay open while seeing something "new" on your amazing journey with God. It is exciting to watch, measure, and monitor your own growth and development. Be responsible for your growth. Never stop learning and participating in the world and keeping up with the changes in our current culture. Attend Adult Sunday School and Bible Study classes. Listen to other sermons and visit other churches. Ask questions and dialogue with people in the church as well as Christians outside of the church. Be responsible for what you do not know. There are many excellent new translations of the Bible that are scholarly, yet user friendly. Consider purchasing a new study Bible for your personal enhancement and growth. It's actually fun to learn and gain new knowledge. You will be surprised by what is already there for you to learn, and you will find lots of "aha" moments! Google can be a good tool to look up information as well. Try a daily devotional—it will inspire you, strengthen you, and prepare you for your daily walk.

Finally, pray, and meditate on God’s words. Think and ponder on them until the answers you are seeking are revealed and become clear to you. That is the way God wants you to live, as a disciple of Jesus Christ—always growing and becoming more Christ-like in your LOVE. As you become more mature in your faith, your fears and anxiety will dissipate. Your faith will strengthen along with your confidence.

STUDY STUDY STUDY

Pastor Gwen

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a person who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth” 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Sue Simons
- 4 Sarah Holl
- 4 Owen Koss
- 4 Ethan Koss
- 5 Maggie Lay
- 7 Tami Keinert
- 7 Tom Borger
- 10 Deb Russell
- 13 Sheila Beutin
- 14 Anne Wyszowski
- 15 Pearline Ortiz
- 20 Linda Boardman
- 25 Christine Hauski
- 28 Klaus Zunker

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

Online Giving Option

An online giving option is now available on the DONATE page of the church website at <https://www.firstbaptistwestallis.org> or by going to the page <https://tithe.ly/give?c=6579866>.

One can donate to First Baptist Church by credit card, debit card, or ACH transaction. A portion of the donation is a fee that goes to tithe.ly, the online giving platform: 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction for credit or debit cards, 1% + \$0.30 per transaction for ACH.

Of course you are welcome to continue to give by cash or check in the offering plate at Sunday worship or by mailing a check to the church in care of the Financial Secretary.

Please contact Craig Holl, Treasurer, if you have questions.

ABMen's Luncheon

ABMen will meet at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, February 19 for lunch in the Paul Booth Room at church. We will discuss the book *Why Men Hate Going to Church* by David Murrow with Pastor Gwen. You may order a copy of the book online or ask one of our men to loan you a copy that has already been purchased.

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December 2022 Financial Income Report	
General Receipts	
Envelopes	14,691.00
Loose Offering	98.50
Church School	103.27
Christmas Eve	96.00
Christmas	890.00
Church Mutual Dividend	275.00
Total	\$16,153.77
Miscellaneous Receipts	
Secret Place	6.00
Postage	0.58
Total	\$6.58
Communion Offering	
RMMO	30.00
Grand Avenue Club	125.00
Milwaukee Christian Center	125.00
Total	\$280.00
Mission Offering	
RMMO	1005.00
Love Gift	10.00
Total	\$1015.00
Deposited Total	\$17,455.35

The Communion Offering for the month of February is designated for the St. Ben's Meal Program.

Third Sunday (February 19th) suggested non-perishable food item is **rice** and the hygiene item is **body wash**.

Singing the Song of the Exile

On Thursday, January 19, 2023, American Baptist Women's Ministries hosted a webinar, ***Singing the Song of the Exile: A Womanist Exploration of Psalm 137***. Our guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Leslie D. Callahan, pastor of the St. Paul's Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Watch the webinar recording on the American Baptist Women's Ministries' website:

www.abwomensministries.org/webinars

Our next webinar "*Gathering Our Tools for Building Trustworthy Community*" is on Thursday, February 2, 2023.

Register at the link below.

www.abwomensministries.org/webinars

New Member of FBC

John Kruschke of Greendale, WI is the newest member of First Baptist Church. He was voted into membership by Christian experience and extended the right hand of fellowship at the conclusion of morning worship on Sunday, Jan 22. Welcome, John, and congratulations!

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Musical Notes

FROM THE DIREKTR

Improve your natural skills

Release emotions

Boost your self-confidence, mood, and over-all well being

Meet new people and make friends

Be creative

Aid your teamwork skills

All jobs require a certain set of skills. As we work, we improve our skills and learn new ones. Whether you are a teacher, a bus driver, a mechanic, a nurse, or any other occupation, you come to the job with skills and improve and acquire skills as you work.

The above list of skills could fit many different jobs and activities, but it is taken from an article about the benefits of singing in the choir. Yes, singing requires a bit of work but the benefits far outweigh the amount of effort that is put into the final product.

The most important benefit of singing in the choir is that you are serving your faith community in a very important way – you are communicating the gospel through music.

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:30. We will welcome you with open arms and it won't be too long before you are having a great time improving your skills!

Mary Schecher

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Historical Reflections: FBCoWA & MMCC at St. Bens

Mission Together FBCoWA and Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church

Almost the end of the year of 2022, the First Baptist Church of West Allis and Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church have worked together for "Feeding the Homeless" mission. We collected pennies and coins from our



Churches' members for four weeks in December. We received a good amount of donations from our members and friends. These donations went to the mission of "Feeding the Homeless." Under the leadership of the Pastor Rev. Gwendolyn Young (FBC), we went to change the coins and went shopping for making cupcakes.



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On the 28 December 2022, MMCC's Sunday School youth and children gathered at the Church to make about 90 cupcakes for FBC and MMCC's joint mission of "Feeding the Homeless" project at St Benedict the Moors Church in Downtown Milwaukee.



The last Thursday of December (12/29/2022), Pastor Rev Gwen, and three people of the Wood family from FBC, Rev May May Latt, youth and young adults from MMCC went to St Benedict the



Moors Church in Downtown Milwaukee, distributed our cupcakes, and served the meal. Our very first joint mission of "Feeding the Homeless" was accomplished, and many more to come in the new year of 2023!
[Edited with fewer pictures from a document provided by Dr. Pastor May May Latt.]



This is the 84th of periodic historical articles.

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Historical Reflections: Pastor May May Latt Ordination - MMCC



Dr. May May Latt, Pastor of the Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church (MMCC), was ordained on Sunday, December 4, 2022. Dr. Latt is believed to be the first woman from Burma who has been ordained in the state of Wisconsin. The ordination service was held in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church of West Allis (FBC). Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri, former Executive Minister of the Wisconsin Region, preached the ordination sermon.



Middle schooler Samuel Boi Lian Thang welcomed participants and guests to the ordination.

Clergy from the Wisconsin Region participated in the laying on of hands ceremony as Dr. Latt knelt.

Dr. Latt displayed the ordination certificate presented to her by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Executive Minister, and Rev. Dr.



John Jones IV, Associate Minister-Education, of the Wisconsin Region.

Rev. Gwendolyn Y. Young, pastor of FBC, gave the charge to the newly ordained Rev. Dr. May May Latt.



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Each of the five pastors in the picture participated in the ordination service. Furthermore, each of the five preached at First Baptist Church in 2022. They are, from left to right, Rev. Carolyn Dugan (Associate Minister-



Camping); Rev. Mindi –Welton Mitchell (Executive Minister); Rev. Gwendolyn Y. Young (Pastor of FBC); Rev. Dr. May May Latt (Pastor of MMCC); and Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri (Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development, ABC-USA).

Tu Marip, President of MMCC, encouraged everyone to enjoy the meal that followed the



ordination service. The meal was served downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

[Text and pictures provided by Karl Byleen]

This is the 83rd of periodic historical articles.