

September 2017



## Drawn In and Sent Out

Jennifer and I had a wonderful time at an out of town wedding last week. We met some very nice people and were warmly received. The wedding and reception were both a God honoring, and a fun time. As the day was drawing to a close I told Jennifer that I could see why our friends liked living there, and that I found myself feeling drawn in. And that that is the way the Christian community is supposed to be. Let me be quick to say that I know that isn't the perfect Christian community, and if I were around longer I know I would have disappointing experiences. But, it was an example that was delightful to experience, and obviously one I would want everyone who visits MBC to experience.

The same day 70 miles north of us the Charlottesville marches and tragic death that took place lent a sobering contrast to the inclusive atmosphere we were experiencing. I couldn't help but feel concern when I heard a comment on the radio that the white supremacists needed to be silenced, for "there's no place for hatred and bigotry in our country." Those are the same words leveled at us as Christians! Has our society only heard words of condemnation, and only seen separation from the community in our churches?

I once heard someone make a statement to the effect – if your church suddenly closed and ceased to exist, would your community notice? Would they miss you? Those are sobering words! They caught me off guard. Should the community appreciate the church, and is that what God expects of the church?

Well, we should expect to be hated and persecuted (John 15:18-20). But also known for love (Matthew 5:43-46), and for love with more than words (1 John 3:18). The apostle John wrote, "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup> But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? (1 John 3:16-17, NASB)

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. <sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup> nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:13-16, NASB). We become salt and light in God's hand when we subject our lives completely to Him. And when we do, He effectively shakes the salt out of the saltshaker and shines the light into the darkness.

As our ministries gear up for the new ministry year, and as we begin forming operating plans for the Believer's Fellowship building, let's keep ourselves open to the Lord shaking and shining through us in our community. I know that many of you are already reaching out to those who've yet to believe in a multitude of ways. Keep it up! I'd love to hear your stories! Others of us may need to join in. Our ministry leaders are also being challenged to look beyond ourselves in their programming. The focus of the new to us facility is to provide a place from which we can demonstrate love to the lost and broken in our community. The times are calling, is the Lord prompting you?

Called and sent,

*Pastor Dan*



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# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Men's Breakfast - 8 am, NC/K
3 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am	4 Labor Day Office Closed  No Prayer Meeting	5 Primetimers Lunch/ Games - 10:00 am, NC/K	6 Men's Noon Bible study resumes - 12 pm, LL #102  NC/K in use - 1:00 pm Awana Planning Meet- ing - 6:15 pm, NC	7 Choir - 6:30 pm, S  NA - 7 pm, LL #102	8  Ministry Leader Dinner/Training - 6:00 pm, NC	9
10 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am  Sunday School Kickoff - 9 am  Ignite Kick-Off - 4 :00 pm  Fusion Kickoff - 6:30— 9 pm "Bigger or Better Hunt" & Bonfire	11 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102  Elder Bd. Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #106	12	13 Men's Noon Bible study resumes - 12 pm, LL #102	14 No Choir  "Prayer" Ladies Study - 9:30 am, NC  Believer's Fellowship Mtg. - 6:30 pm, at Believer's Fellowship  NA - 7 pm, LL #102	15  <b>October NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE!</b>  Primetimers 11:15 am Pizza Hut lunch  Bob Lane "Generations" work- shop - 6:30 pm, NC	16 Next Steps—Step 1 - 7:30 am breakfast, NC (NOTE time change!)  Bob Lane "Shaping Your Legacy" workshop - 9 am, NC
17 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am  Sunday School - 9 am  Next Steps-Step 3 - 6:30 pm, NC	18 Missions Mtg. - 6 pm, LL #106  Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	19	20 Men's Noon Bible study resumes - 12 pm, LL #102	21 Choir - 6:30 pm, S  "Prayer" Ladies Study - 9:30 am, NC  NA - 7 pm, LL #102	22 Fusion Expeditions Unlimited	23 Fusion Expeditions Unlimited
24 Lord's Table Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am  Sunday School - 9 am  Fusion Expeditions Unlimited	25 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	26 Pleasant View Service - 9:30 am  Board of Deacon Mtg. - 6 pm, LL #106	27 "See You at the Pole"/ Breakfast - Stay tuned for details  Men's Noon Bible study resumes - 12 pm, LL #102  Awana Kick-Off 5:30 - Jr High/H.S. 6:15 - 3 yr.—6th Gr.	28 Choir - 6:30 pm, S  "Prayer" Ladies Study - 9:30 am, NC  NA - 7 pm, LL #102	29	30

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**Happy Anniversary**

- 1 Indy Garchie
- 2 Charles Champlin
- 3 Jared Hardy  
Leland Hartwig  
Ramona Johnson  
Gladdy Scheppele  
Sarah Thompson
- 5 Nancy Larson  
Anna Ritschard
- 6 Nate Ackerman  
Rick Hartwig
- 7 Russell Meyer
- 8 Josh Montgomery  
Ezekiel Ritschard  
Samuel Roidt  
Tom Skoumal  
Helen Tuttle
- 9 Michelle Bisegger
- 11 Isaiah Ritschard  
Christopher Thompson
- 12 Maggie Holverson
- 13 Gritley McNett  
Caden Montgomery



- 13 Christine Thesing
- 16 Robin Nafzger
- 17 Kathryn Rufener
- 19 Andrea Brunner  
Greg Dyer  
Yvonne Heinbaugh
- 20 Peter Rische
- 22 Deb Hauri
- 23 Nathan Botteron  
Bob Hauri
- 25 Josie Garwell  
Jacob Whyte
- 26 Russ Meier  
Cree Schadewaldt
- 27 Joey Thoman  
Emma Turkelson  
William Turkelson
- 28 Steve Schwarze
- 29 Norma Funk  
Chris Morris
- 30 Roman Dechtiarenko  
Larry Hermanson

- 9 Chris & Laura Holverson  
Russ & Corrine Meier
- 10 Gene & JoAnn Dobbins
- 13 Steven & Gritley McNett
- 14 Brian & Lexi Baer
- 18 Jeff & Marie Wunschel
- 19 Steve & Shannon Allbaugh
- 22 Jeff & Ann Italiano
- 25 Rich & Anita Peach
- 28 Dan & Deb Hendrickson
- 29 Larry & Jeanne Hermanson

## The Most Important Text on Marriage

### One, Simple, Impossible Verse

Ephesians 5:22-33 is the classic Bible text on marriage. It's a critical place for Christian couples to regularly return to get their bearings. It's often read at weddings, and often referenced in articles, sermons, and books on marriage. But in our years of marriage, it has not been the most significant biblical passage for us. If I had to pick one, it would come a few verses earlier, before the focus turns explicitly to marriage. It's just one, simple verse: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)



Looking back on our ten years, what we have needed most hasn't been the pointed charge to love and submit (important as they are!), or the popular vision of love in 1 Corinthians 13 (wonderful as it is!). What we've needed most hasn't been practical tips and techniques from veteran counselors and famous Christian couples. What we've needed most is to learn to be Christians – with all that entails – as we live with each other inside a covenant.

Even though Ephesians 4:32 isn't explicitly about marriage, it's been the single most important verse for us because it's a penetrating summons to being Christian in a way that is especially poignant in the daily rough and tumble of marriage.

### Be Kind to Each Other

As for marital tips and techniques, new research is discovering the power of what Ephesians 4:32 has said for almost two millennia. For the last four decades, psychologist John Gottman has been watching married couples – both "the masters" and "the disasters," as he calls them. What makes the difference between a great marriage and a bad one? When Gottman boils it down to one thing, he says it is kindness.

Let's all make an effort to be more kind to our spouse. Look for part II of this article next month in Marriage Moments.

Excerpt taken from article by David Mathis on [DesiringGod.com](http://DesiringGod.com).

# Prayer

Summer is a busy time and it's almost time for school to begin again. Did you do everything you wanted to do this summer? How's your prayer life doing? When we're busy, prayer can get pushed down or off the list.

There are numerous things to bring to the Lord in prayer. Are you praying for your kids? Are you teaching your kids how to pray and the importance of prayer?

Pray for your spouse. Hopefully they will pray for you, too. There is an endless list of things to pray about concerning our government. America needs prayer. Pray for the salvation of your friends, neighbors, and relatives. Pray for our pastors, ministry leaders, and missionaries. I'm sure the Sunday School teachers and AWANA leaders would appreciate prayer, as these ministries will begin again soon.

Set aside time each day to come to the Lord in prayer. Make it a priority. Pray with your spouse and family. Prayer is a privilege. God wants us to communicate with Him. We discern God's will through His Word and prayer. Prayer will encourage and bless you and others.

# NEXT STEPS

**Step 1—"Our Missions & Vision"** (1 s.)  
Saturday, September 16th at 7:30 am, NC  
Breakfast is provided.

**Step 3—"Our Commitments"** (1 s.)  
Sunday, September 17th at 6:30 pm, NC

**Please sign-up at the  
Welcome Center!**

Pick up a brochure at the  
Welcome Center for a listing of the  
2017-2018 classes.



Since 1937

## CEF

CHILD EVANGELISM  
FELLOWSHIP

Reaching children worldwide

**Praise God for the  
opportunity to bring  
Good News Clubs into  
the Monroe public  
schools! If you would  
like to volunteer in  
any way please con-  
tact Lucy Whyte at  
608-325-5445 or  
608-214-5525.**



### CHOIR

Choir will resume in September on  
Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.  
Rehearsal dates are Sept. 7, 21 & 28. A  
few songs we were working on in the spring  
will be rehearsed. We are looking forward to  
seeing new faces and hearing new voices!

Stay tuned for Choir information! We need  
more singers with spots for 3-4 bass, 3-4  
tenors, 4-5 altos, and 3-4 sopranos. If you  
are interested, talk with Becky Brown or  
one of the choir members.

Accompanist needed for piano, drums, and  
guitar. If you are interested - great!  
Contact: Becky Brown 214-4185

Saturday, September 2nd  
8 am

Men's  
Breakfast



# Primetimers

COME JOIN OUR  
BIBLE  
Study

Thursday morning Ladies Bible study  
will begin September 14th at 9:30 am in  
the Nehemiah Center. A sign-up sheet  
is at the Welcome Center. We will be  
studying the subject of Prayer involving  
a deeper discussion of the importance of  
daily time with our Lord. The cost for the  
study guide will be \$7.00 with payment  
due on the 14th, when books are made  
available. See Carol Hasselmann if you  
have any questions.

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If you are an "empty nester" you would  
fit the Primetimer category. Please join  
us for our activities. New folks are  
always welcome.

Games and Lunch day will reconvene  
the day after Labor Day, September  
5th. We will meet at the usual time,  
about 10:00 AM in the Nehemiah  
Center. Please come and enjoy friendly  
conversation and/or play some table  
games as well. Lunch will be served  
around noon. A freewill offering will be  
taken to help defray the lunch costs We  
will be discussing an upcoming trip to  
the Madison Zoo, so we hope you will be  
there as we make our plans.

We will also meet on September 15th,  
the third Friday of the month, for our  
Pizza Hut lunch date. Meet us at our  
local Pizza Hut at 11:15 am and enjoy a  
good salad and pizza bar. They provide  
a nice menu at a nominal cost. We will  
celebrate September birthdays and  
enjoy great fellowship.

<p>Congratulations to Mr. &amp; Mrs. Matt Lincicum</p>	
	<p>who were joined in marriage on Saturday, August 19th, 2017 at Monroe Bible Church</p>



Worship is Life  
Ladies Retreat  
2017

The women's ministry team of Monroe Bible Church would like to invite you to attend this year's retreat at Inspiration Ministries in Walworth WI. Our theme this fall focuses on worship. More specifically what worship really is, what gets in the way of our worship, and the fruit of our worship. Please pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center for more information.

*But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. John 4:23 NASB*

**MISSION:MONROE** contact Carol Larson at  
**larson8@gmail.com** or call 588-1475.

Mission: Monroe is continuing to schedule events. For the most current updates, please check the Mission: Monroe FB page. Information is posted in the bulletin, newsletter, and email, while sign-up is at the Welcome Center.

Monroe Area Community Closet (MACC) is still accepting volunteers. Our church has consistent presence in this growing ministry. Please email [monroearcommunitycloset@gmail.com](mailto:monroearcommunitycloset@gmail.com) or follow this link <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=qcmvas8s367j6d816jt9l83mis%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago> if you would like to volunteer!



Mission:Monroe is partnering with Care Net Pregnancy Center for the October 2nd Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser held at Hope E-Free Church. We are looking for help in several areas:

- 3-4 people to help set up from 2 pm—4:30 pm
- 3-4 servers 4:30 pm—8 pm
- 3-4 people for clean up 7:30 pm

People to supply desserts, especially pies. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center or call Carol Larson with questions at 608-558-1475

# MBC LIBRARY NEWS

## NEW...For Kids!

### The New Millennium Girl Books by Jan May! (for ages 8-12)

**Isabel's Secret** - There's a secret in Isabel's family that must be kept or else. Follow Isabel and her horse Starlight on an adventure in faith as they search to put the missing pieces together.

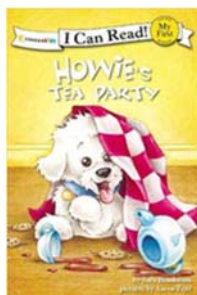


**Isabel's Fun-Fair Fiasco** - Isabel is back in book two with another exciting adventure of faith! Someone is trying to sabotage Isabel's plans in this delightful mystery.

**Callie's Contest of Courage** - Follow Callie on her journey of trust, hope, and the power of prayer. Can she muster up the courage to step out on a journey that whisks her away from all the things she loves?

### From the Grandma's Attic series by Arleta Richardson!

**More Stories from Grandma's Attic** - A young girl delights in her grandmother's stories of days gone by, sparked by keepsakes and simple questions, Grandma shares marvelous stories of mischief, discovery, and laughter, such as a beautiful heart-shaped locket and a curl that cost Grandma more than a lock of hair.



### From ZonderKidz "I Can Read Book" series!

**Howie's Tea Party** - My First reading level (ideal for sharing with emergent readers)

**Cats, Dogs, Hamsters, and Horses (Made By God)**-  
Reading Level 2





## October 21 & 22 is Missions Harvest Weekend

Our church currently supports 20 missionaries; so to help our congregation develop more personal relationships with them, we host missionaries for a weekend. Saturday will be the Men/Boys Breakfast at 8 am and the Women/Girls Luncheon will be at 12:00 noon, in the Nehemiah Center.

All food is provided at no charge and we will again be collecting items for the GREEN COUNTY FOOD PANTRY. Look for sign-ups at the Welcome Center soon.



Our guest speakers this year are: **Charles & Julie Champlin** (Brazil, South America) and **Eric & Kate Scholz** (Los Angeles, CA). Mark your calendar now and get ready to sign up for a Saturday of food, fun, and fellowship!



All clubbers and their families are invited to the Awana kickoff meal on Wednesday, September 27, 2017. The meal will be from 6:15 to 6:45 pm in the Nehemiah Center. Club time is 6:15 to 7:45 pm for 3 years old through sixth grade. Middle school and high school (7th-12th grades) meets from 5:30 to 6:15 pm on Wednesday evening.

A leader planning meeting will be held Wednesday, September 6 at 6:15 pm, in the Nehemiah Center.

Pre-registration between Sunday morning services will be held September 10 and September 17. Please pre-register so we can have accurate counts and materials for the beginning of the Awana year. We are in need of more helpers this year. We were considering limiting Cubbies registration but the church leadership would rather not turn anyone away, so please help if the Lord leads you. All workers must be Child Protection certified (or recertified yearly) before the start of the Awana year.

**Awana needs two secretaries.** The general secretary does not have to be at club every Wednesday. They will order books and awards, shirts, etc. and help with the year-end Award Ceremony.

The T & T secretary will need to attend Wednesday night and record attendance and sections passed by each third through sixth grade clubber.

These are both very important positions. The club cannot function without them. Team (shared) positions is a definite possibility. Child Protection certification (or yearly recertification) is required. Awana runs 9/27/17 through 4/25/18 with breaks near Christmas, New Years, and Easter.

If you feel the Lord is leading you to minister in this area, please contact Mr. Kim Markham at 608/558-0936 or [kathyam@hughes.net](mailto:kathyam@hughes.net).



# Workshops

COMING

SOON!

to MBC

for



OLD FOGIES

Trouble understanding the younger generation? Trouble understanding the older generation? Trouble understanding the younger *and* the older generations? There are reasons. It's related to the experiences of each generation which has affected the way things are perceived by that generation. Come to the **"Generations"** workshop **Friday night September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** to learn how to understand and work together across generational lines.

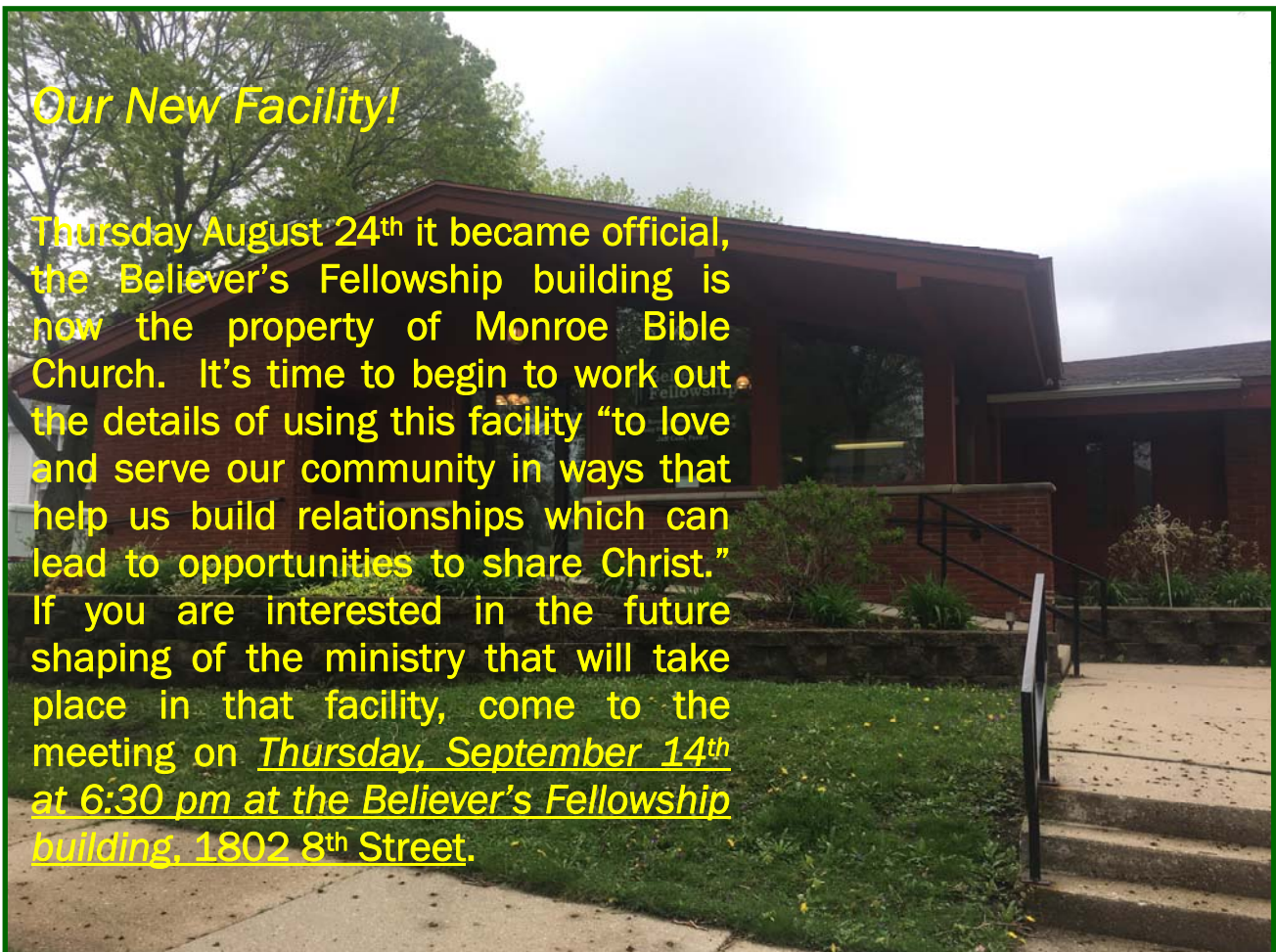
Bob Lane, a retired pastor who's heart aches for the future of the church, has researched these differences and put together this workshop to address this urgent need. Bob has over 50 years of ministry experience pastoring, planting, restarting, and refocusing churches. Since 1999 he has been the executive director of **"The Inquest Group"** which specializes in equipping church planters, pastors, missionaries, and denominational leaders. Bob has been conducting this and other workshops across the country with glowing reviews.

**Saturday morning, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 am** Bob will conduct a workshop called **"Shaping Your Legacy."** It's focused on helping participants look at the legacy they are leaving and give consideration to what kinds of changes they might like to make.

There is no cost to attend either workshop, but we request that you please sign-up at the Welcome Center or call the church office so that we can know how many to prepare for.

## Our New Facility!

Thursday August 24<sup>th</sup> it became official, the Believer's Fellowship building is now the property of Monroe Bible Church. It's time to begin to work out the details of using this facility "to love and serve our community in ways that help us build relationships which can lead to opportunities to share Christ." If you are interested in the future shaping of the ministry that will take place in that facility, come to the meeting on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Believer's Fellowship building, 1802 8<sup>th</sup> Street.





### You may ask “Where’s the Worship Leader?”

This is a complicated topic, so let me try to shed some light on things. First of all, it has never been the intention, and still isn’t, to conduct the first service just like the Café service. The original plan was for Larry, our Worship Director, to continue to lead that service as he had been leading. The Lord’s moving him in another direction and the resulting resignation meant that arrangement needed to be revised.

When Larry resigned, the Elders did not realize the amount of time required to coordinate changing worship teams each week. The initial idea was to have different people lead each Sunday until we settled on what the future course of action would be. Once we realized the time commitment, we understood that plan would not work. Following Larry’s resignation the Deacons also did not budget a salary for a worship leader. Our worship leaders, Peter and Aaron, graciously offered to lead the first service in the interim if they could do it the same way as the Café service. This was because they both have fulltime jobs and don’t have time to coordinate the music, musicians, vocalists, and rehearsals as Larry did in his paid position. We are grateful that they stepped in. During this time, in addition to the normal things Elders do, the sanctuary remodeling and Café move into the sanctuary was underway, and investigating the possible Believer’s Fellowship acquisition was full speed ahead. Unfortunately, filling the worship leader void did not take a front burner.

Needless to say, there are some philosophical issues that need to be addressed before looking for a worship director. It has not yet been decided that a part-time paid position will be offered. A legitimate question is whether it is realistic to think a worship leader would move to Monroe for a part-time position. The style of worship we are looking for, the participation of our people on worship teams, and what responsibilities would be included are all issues that need to be clarified before even considering a job description. Someone who may be an excellent musician and/or excellent vocalist isn’t necessarily a good worship leader. A good worship leader has the gift of drawing an appropriate response of worship of God out of people. Today questions are being raised about worship teams being too performance focused. We want to be careful not to go down that path.

As you can see, it is a complicated issue, and not simply resolved. The Elders are making this a priority and welcome your input, patience, grace, and prayers.

## ABF’s are Changing!

ABF’s, a class for adults during the Sunday School hour, will cease to exist in the form it has for the last several years. In the past there have been a wide variety of materials used and topics covered. The same time period, Sunday mornings at 9:00, will still be utilized for an adult class, but the focus will now be subjects that pertain to our vision and equipping our people to live it out. Pastor Troy, in conjunction with our ministry leaders, is coordinating and scheduling the future classes.

The first class, September 10<sup>th</sup>, will focus on Life Groups. There will be a presentation about the purpose and format of Life Groups, personal testimony, time for questions, and an opportunity to sign up. The next two classes will be “Come Meet Our Family Ministries Pastor.” In those classes, on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Troy will be explaining his role and responsibilities here as Pastor of Family Ministries, and taking your questions. Come and get to know Pastor Troy and his ministry! October 1<sup>st</sup> the six-week *The Art of Marriage* course led by our Marriage Ministry leaders Jeff & Marie Wunschel will begin. Stay posted for future offerings related to the subjects of *Joining Christ*, *Building Families*, and *Transforming Communities*!


Our vision is to glorify God by making disciples  
who join Christ  
to build families  
that transform communities.



It's that time again - Life Groups will be starting up September 17th. All the information will be posted at church, as well as on the church website. Plan on contacting the leader/host of the group you will be attending. If you have any questions, contact Mike Westcomb; 608-576-4046.

*Stay-Tuned for more details coming soon!*

# Kids' Page



## The gift of grace

God's grace is a free gift, not something we can earn on our own. How do we have this gift?

*Directions: Complete the Bible verse by placing the capital letters from the gifts on the blanks below.*

F	u	O	R	L	t	A	s	W	v	w	G
I	x	V	p	E	N	M	q	O	S	a	r
E	r	S	e	G	R	m	A	C	E	d	T
R	U	n	T	H	T	H	R	k	O	U	G
H	j	J	E	S	f	U	S	u	C	O	H
R	b	I	y	p	S	T	J	O	i	H	N

" \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_  
through \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ came \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ."  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1:17, NIV

Answer: "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17, NIV

grace /grās/ noun:

1. The exercise of love, kindness, compassion, mercy, favor; disposition to benefit or serve another.

Color this picture!

## Sign of grace

Make this sign to hang on your wall as a daily reminder of God's amazing gift of grace.



**What you need:**

- White poster board
- Large wooden letters that spell GRACE
- Painter's tape
- Tempura paint
- Paper plates
- Paintbrushes
- Colored pens or markers



**What you do:**

1. Place the poster board on the ground (outside, if possible).
2. Put tape on the back of the letters and secure them to the board. No tape should be visible.
3. Paint and draw all over the poster board. Be creative with splatters, handprints and so on.
4. When paint is dry, remove the letters and hang up the poster.

