

The Tidings

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"We are living proof that Jesus Christ is our peace who makes strangers into friends, breaks down dividing walls and builds up real persons."

From the Pastor

This March marks the fourth year of our nation's military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. A number of events are taking place in Milwaukee and around the country to call for peace. Why should this matter to us as Christians?

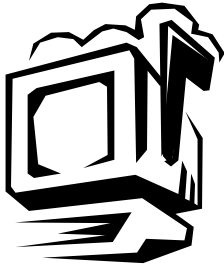
Jim Wallis reminds us that, "The best social movements always have spiritual foundations, because real change comes with the energy, commitment and hope that powerful faith and spirituality can bring."

On March 16th, clergy and lay people from around the nation will hold a prayer service for peace in the national cathedral in Washington DC. On Saturday, March 24th there will be a 10 am ecumenical prayer service at Principe de Paz on Milwaukee's south side. Saturday, March 31st, UU West in Brookfield hosts their 4th annual Peace Conference, *Facing the Costs of War: Weighing in for Peace*. All are welcome to participate in any of these events. The aim is to pray for our leaders, to protect and honor the service of troops, and to promote the worldwide peace God calls us all to foment.

Christian Peace Witness for Iraq reiterates that, "as Christians, we are keenly aware of the way that Jesus consistently surprised his friends and his enemies by responding in love to those who attacked him. Further, the gospel makes clear that there is a direct connection between the work of doing justice and being peacemakers."

Clearly, this is not an easy calling. It is hard enough to love the people we know and like, much less all others. We do not do this by our own power, but by the power of God flowing through and within us. There are no easy solutions, but that cannot be the justification for despair or inaction.

During this Lenten season, as you listen to the prophetic and divine words Jesus spoke, as you observe the opposition he faced from allies and enemies alike, make it a priority to consider the ways God calls you to step up and speak out. As a follower of Jesus Christ, how are you helping to manifest his vision of peace and justice for all God's children?



BULLETIN BOARD

DEAR UNDERWOOD CHURCH

Thank you for your generous donation to Project Focal Point, which came at a great time of need. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Yours in Christ, Sam Carr

A NOTE FROM ERICK BELZIC

Following our thank you to Erick Belzic in the January *Tidings* for his generous donation of the new tables and chairs, he sent the following reply.

"Thank you all for praying for my father. It is actually the first time in my life that people, spontaneously, suggested to pray for me or for my family.

I think that we, in our Catholic Church here in France, obviously have lost a certain sense of mutual support and compassion."

In response to our wish that he come back to Underwood to see how his gift has enhanced our Fellowship Hall, he states:

"I will come back to Milwaukee...not to remain seated in a chair...would it even be a comfortable one...but only if someone finds me a volunteer work to do during my stay there. I do not want to play "the tourist" between the museums and the comfort of my hotel room."

YOU ARE INVITED

Join us for Martha Merkt's **90th birthday** celebration on Sunday, **March 18th**. Cake and coffee will be served immediately following the worship service.

HEART SISTERS ANNOUNCE SOCIAL EVENT!!

What: Movie Night

When: Monday, **March 5th**
at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Underwood Church

We will be watching a movie with a discussion to follow. Snacks will be provided.

On Saturday, February 17th, the Heart Sisters held a Valentine Tea with 28 ladies in attendance! It was fantastic – food, fun, & friends. Plus, we revived the Secret Heart Sisters Society. We all look forward to the mystery and fun throughout the next year. A big thank you to all who helped make the event a wonderful success.

The Valentine Basket Silent Auction was also a great success with proceeds of about \$300 to be used to update the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. We appreciate *everyone* who placed bids and showed interest in our project.

COME JAM WITH PRAISE TEAM

Come for a week, a month or stay forever! The Praise team seeks those musically inclined folks interested in playing or singing along for a service. Rehearsals are Fridays from 4-5 p.m. All instruments are welcome! Please speak to Paul Terrien



THE LIBRARY CORNER

After last month's *Tidings*, I am pleased to report that two people have responded to the call to help with Underwood's library. One other person is pondering whether she can assist.

There is room for more people on the Library Committee. If you are even remotely interested, please call me at 414-442-8142. We can talk about ways you might be of assistance.

A meeting to discuss how the changes can be implemented will be scheduled sometime in March, or later, once I am recovered from surgery.

Consider taking some time to browse in the library. You might be surprised by the collection and decide to check out a book or two!

Occasionally turn off that TV and read. You could discover one of life's greatest pleasures!

Carolyn Sanders, Librarian

COUNTDOWN TO RUMMAGE SALE

Only 59 days remaining. . .

until the **April 21st** Rummage Sale.

Want to know how you can help?

- ❖ Start setting aside your "donations"
- ❖ Plan to help set up and price
- ❖ Come to help that day
- ❖ Volunteer as cashiers
- ❖ Bake items to sell at the Bake Sale

Although this is a project of the American Baptist Women's Group, we will need **men and women and teens** to lend a hand.

April 21st will be here before we know it! Stay tuned...

NEW CHURCH KEY PROCEDURES

Starting February 20, 2007, anyone obtaining a key to Underwood Church's front door (either temporarily or for a church position), must deposit \$10.00, refundable when the key is returned to the church office. For those who already have keys, you will be charged \$10 for lost keys.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members: Tifuh Amba, Jim Christenson, Bette Day, Marge Gaeth, Nancy Heimerl, Joyce Johnson, Janice Melcher, Pat Ransom, Virginia Reininger, Charlyn-Mai Roberts, Carolyn Sanders, Shari West Schmit, Dee Schowalter, Buyenge Sikisi, Sadie Sleik, Shirley Tupper, Llew Walker, Lisa Wilkening, Tim Wilkening.

Friends and Others Known to the Church Family: Tifuh Amba's mother, aunt, Anne Marie, sister, Mourine Amba; Chausiku Abedi's and Mukubi Sikisi's children; Erick Belzic's father, Henri; Judy Chan and her co-workers; Pam Clark's mom, Wilma Clark; Nancy Fritter's mother, Jean Thomas; Kathie Hanold's friends, Jimmy & Faith Givings; Steve and Nancy Heimerl's brother-in-law, Frank Slayton; Margaret Jeske's Cousin, Erwin Zapf; Joyce Johnson's niece, Jean Kate Moten; Chad & Sarah Kafka's friends, Brian & Anita; Diana Lemke; Janice Melcher's friend, Kali; Grace Morgan's son, David; Sei Pramenko's sister, Masa; Julie Sander's friend, Lilli's daughter, Amelia; Carolyn & Joe Sanders' daughter, Jenneane; Shari West Schmit's father, Owen West; friends, Stacey, Crystal, Sarah, Jessica, Jess, Darla, David, Bob, Sammy, Sandy, Mary, Al and Nancy; PFC. Mario S. Basquez, friend of Shari, serving in Kuwait; and all soldiers in active duty; Earl and Carol Schultz' daughter-in-law, Gayle Schultz; Keith and Virginia Wick's nephew, Leo; Wendy Whitaker.

“For the love of Christ urges us on...”

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Dear Friends,

Journey across North America and celebrate the 175th anniversary of home mission in 2007. Join with National Ministries, American Baptist regions and churches throughout the United States, including Puerto Rico, in recognizing the great influence American Baptists have had on the social, religious and political landscape of our nation.

As you tour, recall the days past when you see the lasting influence of gospel ministry over the decades. From 1891 to 1946, Chapel Cars brought Bibles and literature, Sunday School classes and pastoral ministries to small towns that did not have a church in the American West.

Home mission developed a fresh vision in the second half of the nineteenth century once the frontier was settled and the needs of newly-freed Black people and immigrants became foremost. A Freedman's Fund was set up for missionaries to teach the Bible and develop new, self-supporting churches. Then as immigrants poured into American cities, those became new frontiers. Missionaries went into the inner cities to address problems and open up possibilities there.

Geographic and social movement has characterized home mission since its beginning, and responsiveness to change has remained a key marker on the road to more effective ministry. When American Baptists celebrated 150 years of home mission, our rally cry was to “Dare to do God's will!” in a world of rapid change. Now, in 2007, technological advances and the pressures of global economies and politics are producing even more rapid changes.

With so much change afoot, American Baptists are urged on to share the gospel, ministering to all who are least and often left out in the rush toward what is sometimes dubiously called “progress.” Individuals, churches and American Baptist regions are:

- sending volunteers for the National Ministries/Habitat for Humanity Katrina build;
- becoming equipped for ministry through Got Style?™ evangelism training;
- ensuring chaplaincy services can reach people in the midst of difficult life passages;
- ministering to children in poverty.

Together, we're moving forward with real progress, seeing whole communities transformed to serve Christ. And together, we continue to reach out from a rich heritage of mission and ministry, thanks to your gifts to the America for Christ Offering. Please give generously!

OUR GOAL IS \$1,200

We dedicate this year's America for Christ Offering in memory of Frank Rice who contributed to all the mission offerings so generously for many years.

Yours in the love of Christ,

The Underwood Mission Committee