

The Tidings

Rev. Jamie P. Washam, Pastor

*Underwood Memorial Baptist Church
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May 2007

"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

cleave **1** *to divide along natural lines; split; divide forcibly; cut through; sunder*
2 *to make one's way; pass through*
3 *to stick fast; cling; adhere*

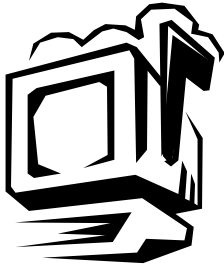
How can one word have such disparate meanings? How can one cleave (divide) while cleaving (holding on)? How can Jerry Falwell, Queen Latifa, Martin Luther King, Helen Barrett Montgomery, Johnny Cash, Booker T. Washington, Edwin Dahlberg, Bill Moyers, Nelson Rockefeller, Frank Rice, Jimmy Carter, Dora Kneen, Gene Autry, Marian Wright Edelman, Aretha Franklin, and Bill Clinton all be Baptists? If they will know we are Christians by our love, too often they may also know we are Baptist by our schism. Historically, Baptists cleave apart, not together.

This summer, Baptists from around the globe will gather in Washington DC.

2007 marks the one hundredth year of American Baptist Churches coming together in mission and ministry. On Thursday and Friday, May 16-17, 1907, delegates assembled at Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, DC and created a general organization to integrate, coordinate and communicate the common ministries of the new denomination – the Northern Baptist Convention. That day in 1907 officially separated Baptists in the United States. This summer Baptists plan to cleave together. Friday, June 29, Cooperative Baptists, Progressive Baptists, Lott Carey Baptists, and American Baptists will gather and worship together in Washington.

In preparation for these coming days, please pray for all who will travel, come together, and participate in this historic gathering.

May a spirit of kinship and cooperation prevail.



BULLETIN BOARD

THANK YOU

I wish to thank Rev. Jamie and the Underwood Church family for the beautiful floral arrangement I received at Linden Grove, when I had rehab after my total hip replacement. I enjoyed the flowers for weeks afterward. Thank you very much,
Jeanne Vermeulen

DEAR WHOLE CHURCH

Thank you for welcoming me into the church. It was very generous of all of you to take me into your church. Thanks you for letting us use the kitchen. Thank you so much.
Love, Sammie Luckow

THANKS,

ONE-HOUR MARTINIZING

You may not know this, but the owner of One-Hour Martinizing at 7027 West North Avenue in Wauwatosa provides free dry cleaning to churches for choir robes, stoles and other church attire. Keith says he doesn't do this for churches, but for God. We suggest you patronize this dry cleaner and let him know that you are from Underwood Baptist. His prices are comparable to other cleaners and he does excellent work. Let him know that we do appreciate his dedicated service to God.

COMMUNION SUNDAY OFFERING

The 1st Sunday of the month communion offerings for the summer months are:
June – Mayfair Interfaith
July – Underwood's Fellowship Fund
August – Baptist Peace Fellowship

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Underwood Baptist Church welcomes Paul Walker into the church family.

PIANO LESSONS

Emilie Rohde-Terrien is offering piano lessons this summer, beginning June 18th. Any students from age 7-107 are welcome. For more info, speak with Emilie.

HEART SISTERS

MOVIE NIGHT

The Heart Sisters are planning a movie night on Friday, **June 8th** at 6:30 p.m. at church. "**The Pursuit of Happyness**", starring Will Smith who was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor, will be shown. All Heart Sisters and other interested women and teen girls are invited to enjoy this girl's night out. Does anyone have this DVD? If so please call Bonnie Sorenson at (414) 258-5979 and let her know. Otherwise she will rent it.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Congratulations to the following students:

High School: Tina Casey, Sarah Grisetti, Alison Hochmuth, Jordan Olsen

College: Jesse Weinberg – vocal

OUTDOOR

WORSHIP SERVICE & PICNIC

On **June 3rd** Underwood will hold an outdoor worship service in Hoyt Park, #2, at **10 am**, with the picnic/potluck to follow. Please bring your dish to pass, meat if desired, a lawn chair and beverages. Grills and paper products will be available. Games to follow. All activities will be held at church if the weather doesn't cooperate. See map.



THE LIBRARY CORNER

Greetings from your library!

The processing of new books has stalled temporarily as Judy Chan and I conduct an inventory of our Underwood Library. We will complete it in the next couple of weeks.

Taking a periodic inventory helps us learn if any books are missing. It also gives us an opportunity to cull damaged or out-of-date titles from the collection.

We have discovered several missing books so far. Why not look around your home to see if you by any chance if you have books that should be returned to the library. In the next issue of the *Tidings* we will list all missing books.

As we go through each shelf, Judy and I are reminded that we have some wonderful books just waiting for you to read. Why not take time after worship and discover for yourself what great titles await your reading pleasure.

A used book sale is planned very soon. Members and friends will be able to buy books for \$.25 each. The proceeds will help us buy more new books, especially for the children.

Watch for other exciting news about your library in the next few months. *Carolyn Sanders*, Librarian

THANK YOU

Please give a standing ovation to all the Underwood members who helped make these past year a musical success. Thank you to all the singers and instrumentalists: Joe Gleesing, Virginia Wick, Sandy Sherry, Bethany Sherry, Brent Sherry, Jordan Olsen, Jonathan Landis, Karlee Sprague, Ken Smith and Larry Stussy. I would also like to thank all the Choir members, the Bell ringers and the Praise Team for their hard work and dedication, especially during Holy Week and Choir Fest.

PERFORMERS WANTED

We are making it a goal to have a different music or dance offering every week between Memorial Day and Labor Day. If you play an instrument, sing solos, duets or trios, or dance, please speak with Emilie Rohde-Terrien about performing one or two Sundays this summer. All ages, levels and abilities are encouraged! (If you would like Emilie to accompany you, please be aware that she will need time to learn the music before the performance date.)

BELL RINGERS NEEDED

We are losing a much loved bell ringer to college (thanks Jordan for your multiple talents) and the Underwood Bell Choir will need two, yes, two fresh faces to join our ringers in the fall. The schedule is quite simple: two rehearsals a month on alternate Thursday evenings, and one performance per month plus Easter and Christmas. Training will be provided before the fall semester begins. Please see any Bell Choir member or Emilie if you are interested.

UPDATE ON REFUGEE FAMILY

Our Somali Bantu family is doing quite well after being in the U.S. for two and a half years. They are becoming much more independent, depending less on our assistance.

They are expecting their third child, a girl, in a few weeks. If you would like to donate baby items, especially diapers, that would be appreciated.

If you bring items, please put them in the office, with a note that it is for the Refugee family. They will be very appreciative. Carolyn will see that they receive the items. Thanks!

RUMMAGE SALE HUGE SUCCESS!

Because of excellent teamwork, the April 21 rummage sale was very successful, providing \$2475 (after expenses) for special mission projects. This year's receipts exceeded all previous rummage sales. More than 45 people helped with the sale. We especially thank Grace Morgan who coordinated the sale.

If you worked one or more days or evenings, thank you.

If you donated items, thank you.

If you baked something for the bake sale, thank you.

And, if you purchased items, thank you.

The proceeds have been distributed to the following organizations:

- Underwood El Salvador Mission Trip
- Underwood Heart Sisters
- Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity
- Milwaukee Sojourner Truth House
- Milwaukee Women's Center
- Amnesty International
- Baptist Peace Fellowship
- Church World Service
- CARE (for Darfur)
- Doctors without Borders (for Darfur)
- FINCA

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Every October many people and churches join forces and meet at the Lakefront and participate in the annual **CROP Walk**. Underwood has had several coordinators for this event. However, the coordinators for the last two year's walks are no longer in our congregation. We are looking for someone to organize Underwood's participation this year.

Money raised for CROP Walk benefits Church World Service, a non-profit organization that provides sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief and refugee assistance in more than 80 countries.

The 23rd annual greater Milwaukee Crop Walk is Sunday, October 14. See Pastor Jamie or Carolyn, Mission Committee Chair, if you will take on this challenge. A Crop Walk kit will be available soon.

WISHLIST:

Power-Assist Door for Elevator Entrance

Some years ago Underwood was made accessible by adding an elevator entrance directly off the church parking lot. More recently, the church has obtained 2 quotes, each for about \$2000, for an automatic door opener to be installed at the elevator entrance. This would be a wonderful enhancement to this much used entryway to the church. I would like to extend a special invitation to anyone in the congregation who may feel inclined to contribute to such a worthy project. Should you have questions or comments, you may speak with Virginia Wick or any member of the Ministry Council.

AB WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF WISCONSIN CONFERENCE JUNE 1-3, 2007

It's not too late to sign up for this conference at Green Lake. Please see bulletin board for more details and registration forms.

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

By Bette Day

Some of the most rewarding and challenging experiences I have had were the two terms I served on the ABC Statements of Concern Committee (SOCC). This committee grew out of the resolutions portion of annual meetings of our denomination and aims to seek the mind of Christ on matters theological, social, political, economic, etc. and speak it to our churches.

The Statements deal with subjects that are suggested to our Board of National Ministries which staffs the committee. Often the issues are ones affecting denominational life, and always issues are timely. When I was elected to my first four year term in 1981 there were 20 members on the committee, ten elected at each Biennial. It was, intentionally, the most diverse and thus representative group I have ever worked with. Geography, occupation, size of church, lay/clergy, ethnic background, gender, etc. were all considered. The number has been reduced to ten members as our denomination downsizes to be more fiscally responsible. Diversity is still a very important aspect for the Nominating Committee to consider.

When three or four subjects are decided upon, Biblical background and Policy Statements of ABC/USA studied and the thrust determined, the Committee divides into writing groups. The work must all be finished in time for a mailing of these Statements, along with Rules and Procedures, to go out to the churches in the January before the Biennial.

Each church or pastor or moderator decides how and if the material will be considered. These statements could be the focus for a series of midweek meetings, or studied by an adult church school class, - a special one or an ongoing one, devoting a few weeks for this purpose. The delegates going to the Biennial should be aware of the congregation's opinions on each topic. It is not wise for the church to demand that the delegates vote in a certain way, however. The SOCC holds hearings during the biennial and it sometimes happens that the original version is quite changed due to information and reaction from across the denomination.

Time is given in the general session for each statement to be presented with affirmative and negative points and then the voting delegates vote to either affirm it or not. What does the voting mean? Do all the churches and individuals now have to abide by these decisions? Nooooo – not Baptists. What it does mean is that it expresses feelings of those delegates who are in attendance at the Biennial. It does give the denominational staff and boards guidance and sometimes asks for specific actions on their part. Is there any accountability in this? It is not the role of the SOCC to follow up, but some individuals and some churches do.

Some people find the SOCC very boring and do not participate in any way. Many in our denomination listen and then forget just what the issues were. But if an American Baptist is concerned about any or all of the topics dealt with, they find that research is presented and ideas outlined for action to enable one to make a Christian difference in our world.

UNDERWOOD MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Many of us have been wonderfully generous in responding to the crying needs splashed on our television sets after disasters like the tsunami in Asia, the earthquake in Pakistan/Kashmir, and the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast. American Baptists gave more than \$6.4 million to these disaster appeals. We gave eagerly to those urgent needs.

In terms of major, headline-grabbing disasters, 2006 was a quiet year. It's good to catch our breath and let the world concentrate on other things. Not that there haven't been significant disasters – it's just that they've been quieter, more hidden: the disasters of extreme poverty and chronic hunger, of terminally unclean water and no sanitation, of terrorizing war and devastating loss. We see these images from time to time, and our hearts go out to those people. But that's different, right? After all, we can't be there for everyone.

Jesus might not agree. A young lawyer talked with Jesus about the command to 'love your neighbor as yourself,' asking, "Who is my neighbor?" In response, Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan – a man who freely gave time, energy and money to help a stranger whom he didn't know and might never see again. According to Jesus, we are all neighbors to one another.

Since 1949 churches across North America have been giving to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering, expressing God's love to our neighbors far and wide – not just after the major disasters that saturate the media, but also to people affected by chronic disasters that repeat themselves each and every day. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing:

- Rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters
- Create sustainable sources of food and water for rural villages
- Provide micro-credit so women can start small businesses and support their families
- Provide job skills training
- Provide medical care so children have a chance to survive past age 5 and attend school
- And so much more

Jesus' response to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" set a standard that isn't easy to meet. By participating in One Great Hour of Sharing during the month of June, we join together to make a world of difference in the lives of our neighbors. Please help us meet this year's goal of **\$1200**.

Sincerely,
Underwood's Mission Committee

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Members: Tifuh Amba, Jim Christenson, Bette Day, Marge Gaeth, Joyce Johnson, Jack Kearnan, Janice Melcher, Pat Ransom, Virginia Reininger, Charlyn-Mai Roberts, Carolyn and Joe Sanders, Shari West Schmit, Dee Schowalter, 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; 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 Heimerl's brother-in-law, Frank Slayton; Margaret Jeske's Cousin, Erwin Zapf; Robin Jeske's friend, Jeanne; 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 friends, little Shannon and brother Danny, Stacey, Crystal, Sarah, Jessica, Jess, Sharon, David, Bob, Sammie & William, Sandy, Mary, Al and Nancy; Rhonda; PFC. Mario S. Vasquez, friend of Shari, serving in Baghdad; and all soldiers in active duty; Earl and Carol Schultz' daughter-in-law, Gayle Schultz; Keith and Virginia Wick's nephew, Leo; Wendy Whitaker.

Sympathy: Underwood extends sympathy to Shari West Schmit and family, upon the death of her father, Owen John West, Jr.