

SPIRIT *Alive*

Make a Difference... at First

Vol. 35, No 1.

First United Methodist Church of Green Bay

January/February 2012

a year in review

SNAPSHOTS of ^ 2011



↑ Members enjoying the UMW Tea following the Advent Service in November



Preschool Christmas Pageant held in the Sanctuary
←



Active Seniors Christmas Luncheon ↑

Children with youth leaders during VBS this summer →



↑ A beautiful day for "Worship in the Park" with music provided by our JAM Band

Remembering the "Welcome Wall" that greeted the Kalas family ↓



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Preparing for Worship in January and February



Sunday Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary at 8:00 and 9:15 a.m.

Fresh Bread Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:45 a.m.

January 8

Sermon Title: Two Kinds of Pizza Lovers

Preacher: Rev. David Kalas

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13

Pastor David says that he's a pizza lover. But there's more than one kind of pizza lover -- or for that matter, music lover, sports lover...or worship lover. Which kind are you?

January 15

Sermon Title: Faith in Pain: The Great Affirmation

Preacher: Rev. David Kalas

Scripture: Job 19:13-26

Perhaps no single person in history is more famous for his suffering than the Old Testament character Job. This Sunday, we begin to explore his suffering, as well as his faith, in the midst of that suffering.

January 22

Sermon Title: Faith in Pain: The Great Crisis

Preacher: Rev. David Kalas

Scripture: Job 23

Sometimes our faith helps us see us through our experiences of suffering. Other times our faith itself suffers. We turn to Job for a poignant portrait of the man of God in the midst of a faith crisis.

January 29

Sermon Title: Faith in Pain: The Great Savior

Preacher: Rev. David Kalas

Scripture: Job 30:16-31, Job 3

Some of the most stirring and disturbing words in scripture are found in Job's tortured laments. He wishes he were dead. Indeed, he wishes he had never been born. What is the gospel in the midst of such existential pain?

February 5

Sermon Title: One of His Strange and Mysterious Ways

Preacher: Rev. David Kalas

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:20-32

Communion

We partake of the sacrament every month. But what do we know about it? And how much do we understand about it? We'll ponder the mystery of the sacrament of Communion this Sunday.



The Loose Coin Offering for the month of January will go to support clergy women in Africa attending the first continent-wide African Clergywomen's Consultation to be held in Mutare, Zimbabwe in February. Many of these clergy women, most local pastors and a few ordained elders, receive minimum or below minimum wages. They have to travel some distance to participate in this Consultation. This offering and any designated gifts will enable more clergy women to participate, have an affirmation of their calling and have leadership development opportunities provided through this event sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church.

The Loose Coin Offering for February will go to support scholarships for our youth to attend Pine Lake Camp. Many First Church families have more than one student who would like to go camp and financially that can be difficult to manage. The youth have asked to stay an additional day which increases expenses as well. Your donations will help us grow this mission by helping more students participate in this amazing faith-filled camp experience!

The Loose Coin Offering for November, which was in support of the **Good Will Place** to purchase winter hand and headwear, raised \$701.19.



Wrinkled Faith

*By Rev. David Kalas
Lead Pastor*

I have a very dear friend from my years in Cleveland who lives full-time now in Africa, where she and her family serve as missionaries. Her husband is a few years younger than I am, but he has started graying more quickly than I have. The last time they were visiting us here in the United States, he remarked how pleased he was by that development in his hair. “Gray hair means age,” he told us, “and age means wisdom.”

That paradigm, of course, reflected the culture in which he is serving. There, it seems, gray hair is prized and honored.

A few months later, I attended a presentation by a different missionary from Africa, who was also visiting back in the States. He shared stories of his work overseas, including many photographs. At the conclusion of his presentation, he allowed time for the group to ask him questions. One woman

asked, “I noticed that in all of your pictures, you have a beard, but you don’t have one now. Why?” And the missionary answered, “Because my beard is grayer than the hair on my head, and so I always grow a beard when I am back in Africa in order to display the gray.”

That’s a fascinating difference from our contemporary American culture, isn’t it? We seem eager to hide our gray and pretend that we are younger than we actually are. And this reflex on our part is a great departure from the generation of our founders, who often deliberately wore wigs that were powered white. Now, by contrast, we would choose almost any other color.

The whole business of aging is on my mind these days as I prepare a special sermon series for our church family. The series will be based on the Old Testament book of Job, and it is inspired by an idea I remember having about that book back when I was a twenty-something seminary student.

All these years later, I’m a little embarrassed by what I wrote about Job back then. It’s not that my insight into the text was wrong; I still stand by that. It’s just that I didn’t know what I was talking about when it came to the subject of suffering and the kind of faith crisis that so often accompanies suffering. My theology had no gray hair then, and my faith had no wrinkles.

As a pastor, I am aware that, on any given Sunday in a church like ours, there are people who are suffering. Some are facing a financial crisis; others are living in a painful marriage. Some are heartbroken over a child; others are living in some invisible prison of addiction. Some have just received a frightening diagnosis, while others are coping with chronic pain. So many different stories and situations, but it all adds up to a great deal of suffering.

And so I want to preach about Job for those people. Job is not the only sufferer in Scripture, but he is probably the most famous one. And I trust his story and his example will be a blessing and encouragement to those who are suffering today. These are the saints whose faith is getting gray and wrinkled by the challenges of life. But I believe that shade of gray is honored in heaven.

Monthly Finance Report

The following numbers represents the financial results for the church for the eleven months ending **November 2011:**

Expected Revenue to date:
\$700,364

Actual Revenue to date:
\$664,501

Expected Expenses to date:
\$764,895

Actual Expenses to date:
\$696,433

In summary, through November, the net deficit for the church totals \$31,932. Thank you to those members who have contributed “Gifts” to help offset the running deficit. As of the end of November the church has collected \$48,491 in “Gifts” towards the deficit. Without those gifts the deficit would be at \$80,423. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carrie Stargardt at (920) 785-0635.

PRAYER CORNER

It's good to be home

By Tina Novak

A few weeks ago we held our last Fresh Bread service at the YWCA.

Starting January 8, the service will be held in the sanctuary. I felt a little sad as we all stood in a circle and sang the final song. Sad because it is a change and I always feel changes deeply. Yet at the same time of feeling sad, I felt a sense of peace and comfort that comes with going back home. Pastor David's sermon that Sunday was about going home and in some ways, moving back to the main church building felt like going home.

As we start the New Year with this change, my heart is praying for the Fresh Bread service and for our congregation as a whole. I pray that we have said good-bye to some of the challenges we had by being there. I also pray that we can maintain the great things about the service, and renew our connection to the larger church. I know that God is guiding us whether we are across the street or right here in our own sanctuary, but it's good to be home.

First Book Club

First Book Club will be meeting at the home of Barbara and Wayne Mohr on **January 12** at 6:30 p.m. and we will be discussing the book *Desert Flower* by Waris Dirie. Waris ran away from her oppressive life in the African desert and this tale is a chronicle of immigrant hardship and triumph.

We will also be having a Somalian dinner. Please RSVP by January 7 to Barb at (920) 494-1088 or mohr.barb@gmail.com.



First Preschool Updates

By Christine Finstad

The holiday season was quite eventful for our students at First Preschool and Daycare. To start off, on November 19 following the Green Bay Holiday Parade, our students and families gathered in Fellowship Hall to enjoy hot cocoa, refreshments and some holiday crafts. The children spread some Christmas cheer on December 8 by performing their Christmas songs at the Active Seniors Luncheon. On December 15, families gathered in the Sanctuary as the children presented their annual Christmas program. This year's program theme was "A Bunch of Gifts". After the performance, families stayed to enjoy lunch and cookies together. Thank you to our wonderful staff for all the hard work preparing for the program! Finally, on December 21, the daycare children celebrated by having a special birthday party for Jesus. The children also had a few opportunities to learn about giving over the holiday season by participating in two mission projects. Throughout the month of December, children were asked to bring in non-perishable food items. Our goal was to fill a shopping cart with items to donate to the Good Will Place. We also supported the "Children and the Partnership of Lithuania" mission. Each child was

encouraged to bring in a gift of money which they had earned by doing chores at home. The money collected will be used to purchase Children's Bibles for the children in our Partner church in Lithuania.

On a different note, First Preschool and Daycare currently has an opening for a part-time preschool certified teacher (about 20 hours/week). Candidates must be dependable, flexible, and a team player. Interested applicants should send their resume and contact information to Anita Ebenhoe at aebenhoe@fumcgb.org.

It's time to start thinking about plans for next year for your preschool-age child! Registration for the 2012-2013 school year begins on January 16 for church members and opens to the public on January 23. Class offerings for next year include the following:

~Little Lambs (for 2 and 3 year olds) will meet on Tuesdays OR Fridays from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

~3 year old class will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

~The Multi-age class (for 3 ½ - 5 year olds) will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. We will also offer an optional "Lunch Bunch" on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. for the multi-age students.

~Pre-K class (must be age 4 by September 1) will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The Pre-K class is designed for children who will be attending kindergarten the next year and offers smaller class sizes and special programming such as Spanish.

If you have any questions or interest in our programs, please contact Anita Ebenhoe, First Preschool Director, at (920) 437-0736 or preschool@fumcgb.org. You can also visit the website at www.fumcgb.org for enrollment forms.



Praise the Lord

By Rev. Dave Wilkinson
Associate Clergy

*“Praise the Lord!
Sing a new song to the Lord;
praise Him in the assembly of His
faithful people!
Be glad, Israel, because of your
Creator;
rejoice, people of Zion, because of
your King!
Praise His name with dancing;
play drums and harps in praise of
Him.”
(Psalm 143:1-3 Good News Version)*

Beginning **January 8** at 10:45 a.m. in our Sanctuary our Fresh Bread contemporary worship service will do just that: Praise the Lord! Sing a new song in the assembly of the faithful with drums, guitar, flute and keyboard (and any other instruments for that matter). And we may even get the kids dancing.

Begun in 2003, Fresh Bread worship first started meeting in Fellowship Hall in conjunction with our Sabbath Café. After outgrowing that space we moved it over to the YWCA across the street from the church. Now, after consultation with the Church Council, we have decided to move it to the Sanctuary. People have asked, “Why leave the Y?” As we have sought to answer that question we have begun to accumulate a

growing list of reasons that affirm God's call. Here is our Top 10 List:

1. It had become clear that the amount of person power needed to set up and tear down every week throughout the year — transforming the YWCA gym into our worship space — was simply no longer sustainable. It took roughly 25 person-hours a week. We did it for 3 ½ years and it was burning individuals and families out. We determined we needed a permanent space with minimal set-up.

2. At the end of Fresh Bread worship at the Y we had to focus on tear down rather than greeting guests and having fellowship. We look forward to building more relationships.



3. Because of the set up and tear down each week, the wear and tear on the sound equipment and stage had taken its toll, requiring replacement once during this time.

4. Our JAM Band and Vocal Team could not rehearse with the same set up they used Sunday morning at the Y. The sanctuary would provide the same space to worship and rehearse. Our sound crew can rehearse with them as well.

5. We paid to rent the space at the YWCA, and we also paid an individual to be responsible each week to coordinate the set up and tear down, manage the volunteers, and care for the building. With the church's current financial deficit we needed to eliminate some expenses and this will save \$8,600 per year.

6. Even though the YWCA is only about 50 steps across Madison

Street, it had created a gulf between the worshipping congregations. The folks at Fresh Bread didn't feel connected to the greater church... and vice versa. We desire more unity in the midst of our worship diversity.

7. There was no opportunity for fellowship between the worshipping congregations. By having a half hour of overlap in the Gathering Area between the second and third services it would allow folks from different services to connect with each other.

8. When events — such as the cookie walk or mission fair — took place in the Gathering Area, the folks at Fresh Bread weren't often able to participate.

9. When we had the Kristal Bells or the Children's Choir bring their music to Fresh Bread, they had to walk across the street in whatever the weather to play. It was a lot of work the one time the Hand Bells came over to Fresh Bread. There has been little crossing over of music. For example, with Fresh Bread in the Sanctuary the Hand Bells might play a contemporary piece at the beginning of Fresh Bread; the children's choirs might share their music at Fresh Bread (the service some of those children usually attend); or in the summer the JAM band and vocal team might provide special music at 9:15 worship.

10. SCRIP, bulletin board displays, giving trees (and other similar items) will now be readily available to the Fresh Bread worshippers.

Fresh Bread will have a different look and feel by the very nature of the fact that it will now be in the Sanctuary, but the focus of providing “A Fresh Start with God” will continue. We hope you will check it out and help us “Sing a new song to the Lord.” And invite your friends to join us at 10:45 a.m. for contemporary worship in our Sanctuary!

SPRC announcement: Godspeed Michael Stefanek

*By Leah Gaworek
2012 Chair of the Staff Parish
Relations Committee (SPRC)*

In this season of joy and celebration, First Church received some sad news. Our talented organist and choir accompanist, Dr. Michael Stefanek, announced his resignation. Christmas Day was his last Sunday with us.

We will miss his outstanding renderings of music into worship, but wish him good luck in his future endeavors and Godspeed.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is now taking steps to fill this important role in our music ministries.



What are you reading?

Join us at The Attic on Tuesday, **January 3** at 6:30 p.m. to share what you have been reading and to also get ideas of what to read in the long, cold months of winter that are ahead! Contact Jenny Temple-Schroeder with questions at (920) 883-5960.

Active Seniors

We will meet on **January 12** at noon. Please RSVP to Lina or the church office by January 9. Our February meeting will be on **February 9** at noon also. RSVP'S will be due to Lina or the church office by February 3. Cost for lunch at each program is \$5. Hope to see you there!!

Youth Ski Trip coming in March

Bruce Cantrall and Don Heaster have offered to lead our youth on a ski trip to Pine Mountain Resort in Iron Mountain on Friday, **March 9**. There is no school that day as this is the same weekend of the NWEA Convention. They will take the church van. If other adults are planning to attend and are willing to drive, that would allow more students to go.

Cost to attend is very reasonable as well and the rates are as follows:

- \$5 ski rental
- \$5 lift ticket
- \$5 lesson
- \$5 for lunch

RSVP's, Permission slips, and Medical Release forms are required. Please contact Lisa Malmberg, at either lmalmberg@fumcgb.org or (920) 437-9252, ext. 124, if you are planning to attend and she can provide you with the appropriate forms. They may be found on the church website also. More details coming soon!

Save these dates for Family & Youth Camp!

It's time to start filling in those calendars for 2012, so be sure to save these dates in August to come along on our annual pilgrimage to Pine Lake Camp, Sunday, **August 5** – Thursday, **August 9**. The youth have been asking to stay one more day, so this year we've extended our trip by another day and will be leaving on Sunday morning instead of Monday. Families and Youth, grades 6-12 (2012-2013 school year), are invited to join us. This is a great opportunity for incoming 6th graders to get to know everyone and become comfortable in our program before the new school year starts.

This is not roughing it! We stay in a beautiful retreat center overlooking the lake with real beds, electricity and your own bathroom too! We have many activities including swimming, fishing, hiking, canoeing/paddle boats, field games, crafts and more! We are hoping to have a mission opportunity at the camp planned for the youth and families while we are there as well.

Location: Westfield, WI- roughly 2 hours and 15 minutes from Green Bay

Cost: \$130 for children age 1-11, \$180 for youth age 12-18 and \$205 for adults. Fee includes room and board plus 13 meals! Payment in full needs to be received by Friday, **July 20**. Youth scholarships may also be available, please contact Lisa Malmberg for more information.

Deposit: Please make a deposit of \$25 per person to reserve your spot as soon as possible. Lisa Malmberg will collect all reservations and deposits. They can be mailed or dropped off for her in the church office. A current medical release form and permission slip are required for all youth attending without a parent. August starts our new school year so new medical forms will be needed.

Diane Wilson has graciously offered to coordinate the activities for Family Camp again, so please see her with any questions. Lisa can help you with questions regarding Youth Camp.

Now...this gives you plenty of time to start planning, so get the pen, not the pencil, and write these dates down! A great time is always had by all and we guarantee you will enjoy yourself!



The Legacy of the Children's Ministry

By Beth Huntley
Children's Discipleship
Coordinator

This month we begin again. January always brings new beginnings and this month for the Children's ministry will be no exception. We will add new technology to our Temple Tales and Keyboard Kingdom rooms with the help of special gifts given to Children's Ministry for the purpose of expanding and enhancing our mission. It is through these gifts that the children will be able to see and hear the video experiences that we use with our worship upstairs. The songs, the music and the video are an integral component for the children.

As you know, the children are surrounded by all of these elements every day. And while we won't use these tools to "babysit" the children, we will use these tools responsibly and teach the children how to use them. Imagine how much more the children will be drawn to mission if we

can show them the need of Kenya or the Marshall Islands or Lithuania. Imagine if we can connect the children to the children around the world. Imagine if we can see and communicate with children in another continent and see the good of the gifts that we send. Imagine if we can see and share the good works of others with the children.

As always, we acknowledge the mission of our Children's Ministry: to introduce our children to Heavenly Father, to inspire them to seek a relationship with Heavenly Father, and to encourage them in

mission and ministry to others. With the legacy of our Children's Ministry and the new tools available, we will continue to do just that. I continue to ask for prayers for our ministry and I welcome anyone seeking to be a part of the new beginning upstairs!

I would also like to say thank you to all of the families that have made this Christmas, my first Christmas on staff at First Church, such a delight. The season began with pumpkin pie after Thanksgiving during Treasure Time and continued to include Club 45 ringing the bells at the mall

and learning about The Salvation Army. The season included performances of the Sunday School classes singing at all three services and performances of the Krystal Bells. All of these efforts and all of these families made this season a very special one filled with importance for me. I am grateful to be involved with the Children's Ministry and to see the love and relationships developing within families and with our Heavenly Father. Thank you.

Leap into Discipleship

By Lina Green, Discipleship Coordinator and Personnel Manager



2012 is here! How did that happen? The New Year means new opportunities for you! We are hoping that you will check our many continuing and new discipleship offerings to see where you might join us.

On Sundays **January 8** and **15**, we will host a **Leap into Discipleship Fair** where you can learn more about the classes available. Feel free to wander through the tables that will be set up in the Gathering Area from 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

We have some continuing groups that you can join at any time. Please check out the Fall Program Guide that was distributed or see our website for those. The new offerings in discipleship for 2012 are listed below. We hope you will **LEAP RIGHT IN** – it is a **leap year**, after all!

Tuesdays: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.: March 6, 13, 20, 17

• ***A Lenten Study*** – preparing for Easter led by Sue Degroot and Bonnie Veitch, in Zeimer House.

Wednesdays: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: January 18; February 1, 15; March 7, 21; April 4, 18

• ***All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Eden*** – a study of the beginning of Genesis, led by Pastor David, Room 108

• ***Revelation – a DVD study with Beth Moore***, led by Jane Jones, Wesley Hall

• ***Mission of the Week*** – a chance to learn about the different missions of our church, coordinated by Nancy Albers, Fellowship Hall

• ***The Mentor Leader by Tony Dungy*** – a men's study led by Scott Huntley, Pastor David's office



UMW News

Healthy Eating and You

Did you know that John Wesley was a vegetarian for part of his life? Join Carol VanScyoc on Friday, **January 20** in Room 108 at 10:30 a.m. for learning and discussion about leaning into a more plant-based diet and its benefits for your health and for our planet, consequences for animals, as well as the spiritual aspects. Everyone is welcome.

Fair Trade in Wesley Hall

We know it's early to be thinking about Valentine's Day, but we want to share the news of a limited edition product! The My Fair Valentine Cards & Candy set includes fairly traded Organic Dark Chocolate Minis and colorful cards with illustrated animals and cute messages. And, each set comes with a fun bookmark exploring where fairly traded chocolate comes from! Watch for more information about placing an order. Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate are available for purchase in Wesley Hall. The chocolate bars are getting rave reviews! Place your check or cash in the large envelope.

Evelyn's Book Club

Join us at the Clarion on Friday, **January 13** at 12:30 p.m. for lunch and a lively discussion of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: creating currents of electricity and hope* by William Kamkwamba. He was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought

and hunger, and a place where hope and opportunity were hard to find. But William had read about windmills in a book called *Using Energy*, and he dreamt of building one that would bring electricity and water to his village and change his life and the lives of those around him. His neighbors mocked him and called him *misala*, crazy, but he was determined to show them what a little grit and ingenuity could do. Call Bev Smith at (920) 336-3597 for reservations.

Bellevue Community Fellowship Group

The Bellevue Retirement Community Fellowship Group will be meeting again soon to listen to a sermon from the CD and book of sermons, *Out of the Archives, into our Lives*. Watch the bulletin for more information and join us for fellowship and sharing. Call Bev Smith (920) 336-3597 if you plan to come.

2012 UMW Membership Books Available

Karen Wojahn and Chris Hemstreet, with the generous assistance of the office staff, have completed the 2012 Membership Books. They may be picked up in the Gathering Area. UMW member's names are on their book. All women are invited to join UMW. If you're not a member and would like more information you may contact our new President Jenny Temple-Schroeder at (920) 498-2330.

Cookie Walk Thanks

Thanks to all who purchased, baked and helped make this year's Annual Cookie Walk a huge success! Thanks, also, to those who made a monetary contribution to the missions that UMW supports with this fundraiser. As of December 10, \$1628 has been received! Mission projects in Green Bay, the state of Wisconsin, the U.S., and throughout the world will benefit from your generosity. Special

thanks to Carol Shield for her many years of leadership on this project and to Mary Harrison for her work as co-chairperson!

Advent Service and Tea

Thanks to UMW President, Tina Uffelman, and all who planned, volunteered and participated in the inspiring 2nd Annual Women's Advent Service and Tea on November 30. A special thank you to Joan Harvey and Pat Murphy for organizing the tea!

We are grateful for the services of Rev. Wilkinson and Paul Harrison for their help with our audio/video and set up for this event, for all the women who set beautiful tables with their own place settings and centerpieces. The offering of \$663 will be used to purchase much needed Children's Bibles for our sister congregation in Lithuania.

At the tea, Audrey Nys was presented with the United Methodist Women Special Membership Pin. She's been a First Church and UMW member for many years. Audrey and Ken have both served for many years on the Volunteer in Mission teams throughout the U.S. Audrey is a member of the UMW Board, and has always been active in our church.

The beautiful centerpiece was awarded to Carol Shield. Carol has been a faithful congregation member and UMW member for many years. Among her many contributions are: coordinator of Blood Bank, the Cookie Walk, the Seekers Fellowship group, UMW Board, and Board of Trustees. We miss Carol when she goes to Florida for the winter!

Mark your calendars

January 13: Evelyn's Book Club- 12:30 p.m., the Clarion

January 20: Healthy Eating and You- 10:30 a.m., room 108

March 13: Lenten Brunch-11:30 a.m.

March 27: Women's History Month Program- evening



What's your Green Resolution for 2012?

If you haven't made one yet, here are a couple of suggestions. They're not new, but are easy to do and worth the effort.

1) Don't throw away those old holiday cards. Donate them to St Jude's Ranch for Children. The charity recycles them into new ones. Profits go toward helping children who are victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment. Send donations to: *St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Recycled Card Program, 100 St. Jude's Street, Boulder City, NV 89005. Find out more at: <http://www.stjudesranch.org/shop/recycled-card-program/>*

2) Paper or Plastic? How about neither?! Buy re-usable cloth bags and keep them handy so that you always have them available for last minute shopping trips. Keep a couple in your vehicle, a couple at home, and maybe one a travel bag so you never have to make that decision at checkout time. Is it better to chop down a tree, use the bag once and recycle it or use a plastic bag made from fossil fuel that will never bio-degrade? (*If you do choose paper or plastic bags please donate them to the Goodwill Pantry where they'll get a 2nd life.*)

3) Think about what you are holding in your hand. Have you considered signing up to receive *Spirit Alive* on-line vs. having it mailed to your house? It not only saves on postage but also reduces what you have to recycle too! Contact the church office and they will help you Go Green!

Lunchtime study group to look at the common people of the Bible

This winter join the Books Between Bites group on Wednesdays for a lite lunch and book discussion. On **January 11** they will begin a book by Max Lucado called *Cast of Characters: Common People in the Hands of an Uncommon God*. Do you believe that God can use you to accomplish extraordinary things? If you have any doubts, take a look at the heroes in the Bible. You'll find people like Mary, Peter, David, Joseph and Esther — ordinary people who allowed God to work through them in amazing ways. *In Cast of Characters*, Max Lucado gleans from several of his best-selling works to present some of the Bible's most interesting lives. Come closer to God's heart for you, by spending time with this cast of characters. This would be a great companion study to the 3x5 Club for those who are reading the Bible in a year. The group meets Wednesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. Sandwich fixings are provided. Deacon Dave facilitates the discussion. Reserve your book by calling the church office.



Food from the Heart and Pantry Auction coming soon!

It's that time of year when we again ask you to share your concern and love for our local pantry mission clients by writing your first name on a heart and then attaching it to a food item donated to the pantry. We suggest canned meat, fruit, vegetables, tomato products, baked beans, rice, pasta and bags of potatoes. Our clients appreciate this expression of love. You may include your first name on the heart, so our clients know it is you who cares about them. Beginning **January 15** you may find hearts in your bulletin or the church office.

The pantry has had a large increase in household numbers this past year and is currently serving more than 100 additional households. We've served over 7,085 people January 2011 through November 2011! We have had to shop more often to handle these numbers and want to ensure that our pantry continues to thrive as a local mission of our church. For this reason we are holding an auction on Saturday, **February 11** (time TBD) to help replenish our cash flow. It's just in time for Valentine's Day shopping! Watch the bulletin for more information, and come support our pantry!

Thank you for your continued support!

This month we give thanks to...

The following confirmands, parents, mentors and friends for shopping, baking, cooking and serving the First Church meal at the NEW Community Shelter in November:

Taylor Koch, Alex and Beth Huntley, Mitch Farra, Lisa and Hannah Malmberg, Lina Green, Sarah and Karen Legois, Kavita Carlson, Nancy Albers, David Baeb, Kimmy Baeb, Anneliese and Robin Zak, Jack Dykema, Tom Bennett, Bruce and Marcus Cantrall, David Sabatka, Ann Steinberger, and Nicolas and David Young. A special thank you to **Jill Theide** for coordinating and organizing the effort!

Those **who helped move** our **Fresh Bread** worship equipment from the YWCA to the church building. And to all those over the years **who helped set up and tear down** the worship space at the Y. We couldn't have done it without you!

All those who helped make the UMW Advent Tea a success: **Tina Uffleman, Joan Harvey, Pat Murphy, Mary Dorchester, Mary Harrison, Mary Hemminger, Chris Hemstreet, Beth Huntley, Shannon Mobley, Bev Smith, Tina Uffelman, Donna Wilkinson, Denise Myers and Bell Choir, Suellen Cantrall, Nancy Stanelle, Carol Harris, Nancy Albers, Sharon Dhuey, Laura Ehmann, Bonnie Goggins, Karie Green, Kristin Hafner, Louise Hansen, Barb Hayes, Mary Hofmann, Lisa Holzwarth, Linda Pliska, Jeanie Reimer, Anne Tennis, Dana, Sydney and Jenna Farra, Nancy Hacker, Jane and Estelle Jones, Audrey Nys, Dawn and Mya Rentmeester, Julie VanKlooster, Carol VanScyoc.** Thank you also to our *table hosts*: **Jeanne Wright Brusky, Evelyn Eyermann, Louise Hansen, Lynda Hansen, Mary Hofmann, Jane Houle, Gladys Somers and Judy Groomwald, Pam Malin, Pam McMullen, Pat Murphy, Denise Myers, Barb Otto, Peggy Schroeder, Carol Shield, Nancy Snow, LeAnn Weist, Ruth Wiersma, Diane Wilson and Joanne Zalec.** Thank you to **Dave Wilkinson and Paul Harrison** for their help with the "behind the scenes" part of the program, **Nancy Snow** for all her help with scheduling and the bulletin, and to **Lisa Malmberg** and Confirmation students **Alex Huntley, Taylor Koch, Sarah Legois, Hannah Malmberg, and Kristy Shuck** for their help serving and cleaning up during the tea.



All who have served as **greeters, ushers, audio and video techs, liturgists, Advent candle readers/lighters, welcome center hosts, and all who helped us prepare for or participated in our Christmas services.** Thank you so much for your service in Christ and to our church in these ways.

Diane Wilson for helping to organize the **Ecumenical Downtown Christmas Church Walk.**

Carol Shield, Mary Harrison and the **United Methodist Women** for coordinating and hosting the Cookie Walk.

Nancy Albers for coordinating the Mission Fair during the Cookie Walk on December 4.

This month we received thanks from...

Steve Schmeisser, Treasurer of The Compassionate Friends (TCF) of Green Bay: "On behalf of TCF-Green Bay chapter please accept this check for the gracious use of the church for our monthly support group meetings and our annual candle lighting remembrance program. We appreciate the room for our meetings to help all bereaved parents who find and need us."

The Good Will Place Food Pantry and the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing: "We wish to thank everyone who participated in the "Giving Tree" during the month of December. Your donations will help us meet some of the basic needs of our pantry families as well as the families residing in EPH homes. Your support is a blessing to both ministries as we reach out to local families in need."

St. John's Homeless Shelter: "Thank you for your kind donation of Breadsmith Bread. Bread is truly the Staff of Life and special breads are always a delicious treat. Please know your donation brought comfort and joy to our guests."

Diane Wilson: "I'm on the mend! Thanks to all of you for pastoral and staff visits, cards and prayers from our church community, and fantastic meals. I feel spoiled! Now it's up to me to do the 'heavy duty' therapy 3x a week."

Joan Barry: "Thanks for the prayers, thoughts, cards, visits, and care packages during my recent hip surgery. Please continue to keep me in your prayers as I continue to deal with a severe length discrepancy in my leg."

Treasured Members Ministry

Happy Birthday to our Treasured Members (80 years and beyond)!

January

1/01	Pat Ihbe
1/02	Flossie Phillips
1/03	Richard Koehl
1/08	Sulo Salo
1/12	Jean Gollyhon
1/12	Marge Beckman
1/13	Doris Branshaw
1/15	Gerry Hamlin
1/15	Elaine Utecht
1/16	Phil Hendrickson
1/28	Eileen Swanson
1/30	Russ Meyer
1/30	Elaine McIntosh

February

2/01	Fred Brown
2/03	David Hull
2/03	Bill Morris
2/08	Don Utecht
2/13	Jeanne Davies
2/14	Audrey Nys
2/20	Robert Von Haden, Sr. (Wisconsin Rapids, WI)
2/20	Joe Robinson
2/28	Betty Brown

Each month we publish names of our Treasured Members celebrating birthdays. Church members and friends are encouraged to send cards or to make personal calls to these individuals listed. Three times a year we celebrate birthdays during coffee fellowship. If you are aware of birthdays that were inadvertently forgotten, please contact the office with the information.

Please consider how you might participate with the Treasured Members Ministry outreach efforts. Opportunities include providing rides to church or to appointments, making visits to homebound members, helping with minor home repair projects ("Helping Hands" Ministry), or help

Births

Tobin Walters Martin was adopted by Ryan and Tina Martin and big brother Rhys. Tobin was born in Hammond, LA on September 22.

Addison Elizabeth Knight was born on December 11 to parents Nate and Ali.

Baptisms

Kolton Scott Graper was baptized on December 11. Kolton is the son of Gabriel and Jessica Graper and was born on August 30, 2011. His sponsors are Bryan Peterson and Cassandra Graper.

Deaths

Karen Besson passed away on November 26, 2011.

Spirit Alive is a monthly newsletter of First UMC of Green Bay. Material submitted for publication is due in the church office by **12 noon on the 10th of every month**. When submitting articles via e-mail, please send to: spiritalive@fumcgb.org

with lawn care or snow removal.

Please contact a member of the Treasured Members Ministry steering committee to get involved.

Treasured Members Ministry steering team members include: Les Van Vonderen (983-2933), Betty Jameson (437-3675), Ruth Wiersma (468-5562), Pat Murphy (465-0240), Julie Van Klooster (825-1122), Bev Smith (336-3597), Susan Miller (498-2063), Carol VanScyoc (437-0829) and Ernest Harvey (544-9118).

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UMW Circle Meeting with members living at the Bellevue Retirement Community in November ↑

Youth and families at Pine Lake Camp in August ↓



↑ Two of our Good Will Place volunteers, Vicki and Bonnie, break for a quick photo opp

Youth 'lumberjacks' hard at work while in mission this fall at Pine Lake Camp ↓



↑ Michael playing his last Christmas Eve Service with First Church. We wish him well!

One of the many beautiful table settings at the UMW Advent Tea ↓

