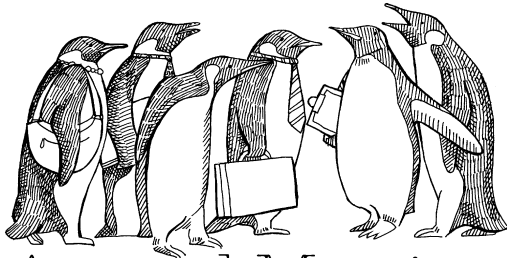




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Jan — Feb 2008



Mark your calendar!

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of First Baptist Church will be held on

Sunday, January 27, following the morning worship. This is a deviation from previous years but with the Area II Ski trip and some other engagements that will keep others away on that Sunday, the decision was made to move the meeting up one week.

One thing hasn't changed though, the ABWM will still be serving a soup and dessert luncheon prior to the meeting. Donations are requested to help the ladies in their effort to meet their mission goals for 2008.

The Annual Report for 2007 will be distributed and discussed. Please make sure if you are a chairman of a committee that your report is turned into the church office by early next week for printing and copying. This is an important annual event in the life of this church and should be considered a responsibility by its members to attend and set the tone for the coming year. How will you respond?

Three to attend SKWIM '08

Mike Hawkins will be taking three young men from our Wednesday night kids program on this year's Area II SKWIM event at Greenlake, Wisconsin's American Baptist Assembly.

Larry Butler, Joey Langley, and Jeffrey Palmer will be experiencing SKWIM for the first time. Besides the snow skiing, these boys will be a taking part in one of the most spiritually exciting week-ends of their young lives. This is a week-end packed with music, worship, and fellowship with other young Christians.

Please pray for these boys as they learn to ski, fellowship together, and grow in their faith.






Bible Study resumes beginning in Lent

Adult Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, February 6. Come study Max Lucado's book, **3:16**. Purchasing the book is not necessary for the study, but if you would like to, please have your request into Pastor Diane by Sunday, January 20, so the books can be ordered and received in time to prepare for the first session.

Remember, the adults will meet in the old study room in the sanctuary area, as the children's ministry will begin using Pitman Hall because they need more room. Praise God! Wouldn't it be great if the Adult Bible Study suddenly outgrew the room they are in? Come make that happen!

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
It Was a Good Year! 2008 		1 Pam Hawkins	2	3	4	5
6	7 Patty Englert	8	9 Supper Kids Club 6 PM	10	11 Alyssa Britenstine	12 Fonda Rhodes
13	14 Deaconate Meeting 7 PM	15	16 6 PM Supper & Kids Club 8 PM Choir	17 Kyle Hawkins	18 SKWIM Kyle Brown Nathan Clark	19 SKWIM Rick & Linda Gerson
20 SKWIM	21 SKWIM	22  Annual Report Is yours turned in?	23 6 PM Supper & Kids Club 8 PM Choir	24	25	26
27 Annual Meeting After worship ABWM serves lunch	28 Red & Carol Paisley	29 Pastoral Relations 7PM	30 6 PM Supper & Kids Club 8 PM Choir	31 Jill Hawkins Anna Kiel		

New copier purchased

At last month's business meeting a motion was made to use a recent \$1,000 memorial donation toward the purchase of a copier. A refurbished Minolta D210 has been ordered and will be delivered soon.

Since the decision has been made not to purchase a service contract on the machine, the trustees request that everyone try to limit its use to church related copying. If you do need to make personal copies, a donation toward the purchase of toner cartridges would be appreciated.

New year - time for updates!

It's another new year--and that means it is time to make updates to the church calendar and to the newsletter information. A couple of things will be happening this year with the newsletter that means we need to "think ahead" a bit. The newsletter will start being published on a bi-monthly basis rather than monthly. So please, if you are on a committee that helps schedule meetings, fellowship times, programs, and such, try to plan ahead so that information can be published in plenty of time.

Also, please note that regularly scheduled meetings like Deacons, Christian Ed, Trustees, and Pastoral Relations have been moved to Monday evenings instead of Tuesdays starting in February.

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear in the newsletter, please let Debbie know about that as well!

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Hannah Henry
3 Wanda Hein	4 Dale Mullen	5	6 6 PM Supper & Kids Club 7 PM Bible Study resumes 8 PM Choir Don Price	7 Linda Snodgrass	8 David Lewis	9
10 First SUNDAY IN LENT 	11 Deaconate 7 PM	12 Pitman Hall reserved	13 6 PM Supper & Kids Club 7 PM Bible 8 PM Choir	14  Valentine's Day	15	16
17 Second SUNDAY IN LENT 	18	19	20 6 PM Supper & Kids Club 7 PM Bible 8 PM Choir	21	22	23
24 Third SUNDAY IN LENT  Doris Weerts	25 Trustee Meeting 7 PM	26	27 6 PM Supper & Kids Club 7 PM Bible 8 PM Choir Gretchen Henry	28	29  LEAP YEAR	

A big thank you to Rick!

The foyer of the sanctuary was recently given a fresh new look as the dark paneling was painted an inviting shade. Thanks to the hard work of trustee, Rick Gerson, it is a much more welcoming area now. A new bulletin board will soon replace the old one.

And as if that wasn't enough, Rick tackled Pitman Hall's floor as he cleaned and waxed them to a beautiful shine.

A big thank you for all your hard work, Rick!



New year marks changes in mission giving

This month begins a new missions giving pattern that was voted on at our last business meeting. For many years we have set aside one-tenth (a tithe) of our general fund giving to be given to designated ministries related to American Baptist Churches. This was done at a time when denominational decisions were questioned and there seemed to be a lack of confidence in the ministries receiving our support.



While the ministries receiving our donations are still affiliated with American Baptist Churches, the one ministry from which we benefit the most and which is vital to our congregation, the Great Rivers Region, has suffered as a result of this decision. The Region regularly receives 65% of our United Missions giving to support its ministry. With only three months, or 30% of our tithe going to United Missions each year (January, April, and July), the Great Rivers Region receives a very small portion of our annual mission dollars.

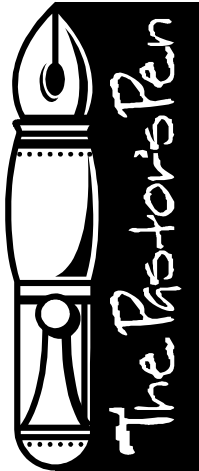
At the December business meeting a proposal, which had been presented at two previous meetings, was voted on to change our giving pattern over a three-year period. As a result of these changes, our 2008 mission tithe will be given as follows:

Month	2008 Tithe Recipient #1	%	2008 Tithe Recipient #2	%
Jan	United Mission	100		
Feb	Great Rivers Region	25	Murrow Indian Children's Home	75
Mar	GRR	25	America For Christ Offering	75
Apr	UM	100		
May	GRR	25	Judson College	75
Jun	GRR	25	One Great Hour of Sharing	75
Jul	UM	100		
Aug	GRR	25	Lake Springfield Baptist Camp	75
Sep	GRR	25	Central Seminary	75
Oct	GRR	25	World Mission Offering	75
Nov	GRR	50	Kids Hope United (formerly Hudelson Homes)	50
Dec	GRR	25	Deacons	75

During January, April, and July, United Mission will still receive our entire mission donation. However, the other months would be divided as above. For example, if our general fund receives \$4,000 during February, our tithe (10%) would be \$400. The Great Rivers Region would receive \$100 (25%), and Murrow Indian Children's Home would receive \$300 (75%).

***"Many things I have tried to grasp and have lost.
That which I have placed in God's hands, I still have."***

-- Martin Luther



Dear Church Family,

Another year has passed, and I trust you are rejoicing in what blessings you enjoyed during 2007 and are looking forward to what 2008 has to offer. After a wonderful Christmas and New Years with my family, I am refreshed and ready to get the new year in motion.

The main mission of our church has been, for the past three years anyway, the development of our Kids Club ministry on Wednesday nights. We have seen this program grow from 5 kids in the very beginning to up to 30+, and it is a joy to see how faithfully they come, sometimes with their own initiative, to join us every week. What a privilege it is to be invested in the lives of so many young disciples. I hope each of us is often in prayer for the children, their families, and the First Baptist Church members who coordinate, lead, and help with the program.

Last year we started talking about another ministry that will benefit not just the families of our Kids Club, but all of us, as well. Angel Food Ministries was discussed by the Virden Ministerial Association some time back. The program is simply a food program that allows customers to order for \$30 a box of food that is guaranteed to be worth at least \$75. As word gets around, the program has the potential of becoming very popular and involving many families in Virden. Because of that, it became obvious that to undertake this ministry on a city-wide basis would overtax any of our facilities. As a result, First Christian began their own ministry in November and received orders for 30+ units plus additional specials the first month.

I have spoken with Pastor John Huxtable, and he welcomes our participation with them, but he informs me that to add another church he would need at least 3 or 4 more volunteers. Orders are generally due about the first of each month, and pick up day is approximately the third Saturday of the month. His arrangement is with Chatham, so the distance is not quite as great as we originally had thought. The time commitment is minimal. Pick-up time in Chatham is generally during a 2-hour window in the late morning, with pick up by customers during a 2-hour window in the afternoon.

Will you pray about being a part of this ministry? We need not only a desire to order food to keep our church involved, but also individuals who will volunteer their time one Saturday each month to retrieve orders from Chatham and/or to sort and distribute food when it arrives. If there are enough orders from First Baptist, we can arrange to have the orders we submit picked up at Pitman Hall.

Why not have the 2008 be the time when we expand our ministry to our church families and reach out to all those who need this important program.

For the praise of His glory,

Pastor Diane

Giving is healthy for us



Abraham Brunk, a professor and researcher in the Netherlands, found that people oriented toward giving and sharing are more physically and emotionally fit than their self-focused and less generous peers.

Brunk's study showed that givers use 50 percent fewer sick days. They also have lower blood pressure and higher self esteem. The anonymous poet who wrote the following words was right on target:

Give strength, give thought, give deeds, give of your wealth,
Give love, give tears, and give thyself.

Give, Give, always giving. Who gives not is not living;
The more you give, the more you live.



To First Baptist Church, Virden

I so very much appreciated your love gift to me! I enjoyed "making music to the Lord" with you all and I thank Him for the experience! By the way, I thought you all "done real good!"

Love,

Betty L.S.

The choir is so grateful that Betty Schien was able to share her God-given talent with us during the Christmas season. If you know of anyone like Betty that might help the choir out on a continuing basis, please put them in touch with Janis Hawkins.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

