

FELLOWSHIP BUILDER



“Growing Spiritually as Individuals and as a Church”

August 2010

First Baptist Church
of Beloit, WI

Ministers Message

Happiness Is....

A number of years ago there was an ad campaign that started out with “happiness is ..” and subsequently we have heard a reggae tune that tells us “Don’t worry, be happy.” It is obvious that Madison Avenue knows that the perception of happiness sells. It works because everyone wants to be happy – to feel good. The reality is that “things” seldom bring true happiness. True happiness is usually the result of knowing the Lord and having positive human relationships. I would like to share some examples of what happiness is:

Happiness is singing a hymn that touches your heart. It may be a hymn that you remember as a child or one that was played at a funeral of a loved one. The words and music touch our hearts and we feel close to the Lord.

Happiness is having a grandchild snuggle up in your arms. It reminds us about how good life is and how wonderful family truly is. It also takes me back in time to when my daughters were young and would climb up into my lap – what great memories brought back to life.

Happiness is having a dog. Our Abby provides so much companionship and joy. She has a wonderful personality that combines energy, excitement, nurturing, and a few “princess” demands.

Happiness is traveling and exploring. Our world is only limited by where we can get to. There is so much to see and experience. So many natural and human wonders

Happiness is reading a good book, seeing a good movie, or hearing a good concert. It is good for us to be stimulated by the learning and challenging ourselves. It is also good to allow the arts to speak to our hearts, provide insights, allow us to laugh and cry, and to gain a better understanding of the world that we live in.

Happiness is a good friend. Someone who knows you well and would do anything to help you. Someone who is comfortable to be with. Someone to share ideas and opinions.

Happiness is giving of yourself. Many of life's most wonderful moments come when we volunteer to help or simply help someone in need. We feel good that we are making a difference.

Happiness is having enjoyable hobbies. It is good to enjoy something completely unrelated to anything else that we do. A hobby is something that we really want to do as opposed to something that we have to do.

It would be great if a doctor could write us a prescription for happiness, but it obviously doesn't work that way. It would be great if when a person earned a set amount of money he/she could purchase happiness, but alas it doesn't work that way. It would be perfect if the computer had a program that would bring us happiness, but it there is no such program. Our happiness is dependent on one person- ourselves. We must live as the Lord calls us to and to live with a spirit of thankfulness. A famous philospher once said "Don't worry- be happy!"

Sermon Summary

“Broken”

Text: Hosea 6.1-6

Commentary: Hosea was a prophet whose very life reflected his message. He married Gomer who is described as an unfaithful woman. Just as his wife had been unfaithful to him, so Israel had been unfaithful to God. In both cases it produces the heartache and pain that is associated with betrayal. The people of Israel were being broken discord with Judah and by attacks from the Assyrians. The people professed that they were sorry and asked God to protect them, but unfortunately it did not change some people from worshiping in the false gods of Canaanites. You can't have it both ways, you are either committed to the Lord your God or you aren't.

Major Points

1. Broken is a word that relates the nadir of the human spirit.

- Broken means that a person feels alienated from other humans and from God.
- Broken means that a person has lost the ability to hope or to feel that their condition can change.
- Broken is a word used to describe the condition of the Prodigal Son when he returned home.
- Broken was a word that might have applied to Hosea because of the actions of his wife. He felt ostracism and embarrassment because of the actions of his wife. A broken promise, a broken heart, a broken covenant, a broken . . .

2. Broken is usually the result of a long process.

- There is a root problem that feeds the problem.
- It has a self-degenerating aspect to it.
- Hosea names for his three children reflected the problems in his marriage and in larger part the problems of the Israelites: Jezreel, after the valley where Jehu founder of the hated royal, had carried out his bloody coup; Loruhamah, ‘not pitied’; Loammi, ‘not of my people’.
- The people of Israel had over the course of time had broken the covenant with God and a day of reckoning was coming.

3. Covenants broken can be restored.

- Hosea took his wife back a second time to try to make their marriage work. Hosea in this case is representing God's forgiving nature and willingness to be patient.
- The focus of Hosea's message is not on the infidelity of Gomer but on the faithfulness of God. "Come, let us return to the Lord."
- Sept. 19, 1860 the great preacher Henry Ward Beecher asked his congregation to come up with \$800 to buy the freedom of a young slave girl and they complied. In 1928 that slave girl returned 68 years later to the exact spot in the church and shared how she felt that God had abandoned her until she heard the great preacher say "My child, you are now free."
- Part of the Lenten experience is the sad reality of our broken ways but another part of Lenten is the expression of God's faithfulness to us.
- We are asked to reach out to the broken, we asked to forgive, we asked to not judge, we are asked to love.
- The answer to life's most difficult problems is not to give up (remain broken) but to invoke our faith.

Here to Serve in Ministry

Rev. Gene Van Galder, Minister
Kathie Barnhart,
Office Administrator
Kathy Mentele, Choir Director
Peggy Pleasant, Organist

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Worship Service: 10:15 AM
Sunday School: 10:15 AM
Wednesday Bible
Study 6:45 PM

Contact Information

Telephone: 608.365.8455
E-mail: firstbaptistchurch@
firstbaptistbeloit.org



Stephanie Bolander, Helen Garman, Savanna Garner, Robin Huffman, Harold Neitzel, Debra Rotschka, and Shirley Welsh.

Our prayers for Jason Burnett and all people serving in the military.

2010 Worship Bulletin Recognition – To purchase a Sunday bulletin(s) in memory or honor of a loved one or a special occasion. Please fill out the white form that is on the narthex table and leave it in the office with your check for \$15 in the tray on the back counter labeled Office Administrator. Kathie will notify you the date(s) you have chosen are taken.



Coffee Hour - Do you enjoy the wonderful fellowship in the Gathering Room following our worship service? If so, would you be willing to provide refreshments for this time of renewal just once during the coming year? Perhaps your family has a special occasion you would like to honor. Thanks to all who have done so in the past. Several Sundays are available. Please call Kathie, 365-8455 or Sandy, 752-0095 if you are willing to help. Thanks to all.

Tending the Lawn

“The grass is not, in fact, always greener on the other side of the fence,” writes Robert Fulghum in *It Was on Fire When I Lay Down on It* (Villard Books). “Fences have nothing to do with it. The grass is greenest where it is watered. When crossing over fences, carry water with you and tend the grass wherever you may be.”

AUGUST MEETINGS

Wednesday Bible Study – meets weekly from 6:45-8:00 PM in the Gathering Room

Board Meetings:

All Meetings at Church unless otherwise noted

Christian Education Board –

Monday August 30, 6:30 PM

Church Council – Monday, August 9, 7:00 PM

Diaconate – will not meet in August

Missions Board – Sunday, August 8, 8:30 AM

Music Board – will not meet in August

Trustee Board – Sunday, August 8, 8:30 AM

COMMUNION SERVERS for August

Connie Van Galder, Cindy Smith, Jan Montoya, Alrene Masear

COFFEE HOUR SERVERS for August

- August 1 Sandra Bjerke, Donna Hutchinson and Jolene Hall
- August 8 Rachel Circle
- August 15 Linda Jolly and VBS
- August 22 Martha Circle
- August 29 Carol Fryar and Betty Hanson

TRUSTEES for the month of August

- August 1 Dan Wright
- August 8 Jodine Saunders
- August 15 Jim Clowes
- August 22 David Parr
- August 29 Gordon Alexander

Trustee Area Assignments

Each Trustee has been assigned an area of the church to be responsible for, please contact the appropriate Trustee with your concerns. A list of the Trustee Area Assignments is posted on the Narthex and office bulletin boards.

Church Office

September Fellowship Builder information should be in the church office by Wednesday, August 18th. Thank you for your cooperation.

“Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to His word; instead, put it into practice”
James 1.22

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



New friends ~ Amazing crafts ~
Wild games ~ Incredible music
Swashbuckling Bible adventures
~ Lip-smacking snacks

Location: **First Baptist Church**

High Seas Expedition will last from:

August 8th-August 12th

High Seas Expedition fun begins at: **6:00 PM**

High Seas Expedition fun ends at: **8:00 PM**

For information, call: **608-365-8455**

High Seas Expedition is this year's Vacation Bible School theme. Volunteers are needed to lead games and be Crew Leaders. Interested persons please contact Traci Scherck, 815-988-9210 or Dawn Jones. 365-9423.



RRVBC – First Baptist Church will host a blood drive on Wednesday, August 4th from 1:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Walk-ins are welcome. Please bring a valid ID and drink plenty of fluids before donating.

First Baptist Church Radio Outreach

Rev. Gene's radio program entitled "Pulpit Talks" airs on WGEZ (1490 am) on Sunday mornings from 8:00 - 8:30 AM. Talks may also be heard at our website www.firstbaptistbeloit.org Please consider a gift to support our radio ministry (mark radio in the memo).



Delicious Recipes - There are a few cookbooks left. Consider one for a gift for a bridal shower or other special occasion. They are available following church in the Gathering Room, or by calling the church office. All proceeds go to help missions by the American Baptist Women.

COMMUNITY

During the month of July and August the Mission Board is asking for your help for the people of **Haiti**. As you know, this already impoverished nation suffered a devastating earthquake in January of this year. The needs of these people are relentless, but have left the media's focus. We mustn't forget them. Please prayerfully consider donating money to these people. Many of their lives literally depend on you. Labeled envelopes have been placed in the pews for your convenience. Thank you for your help.



Rock N Corn Boil - Mark your calendar for the **Hands of Faith Annual Fundraiser** being held Sunday afternoon, August 1st on the grounds of "The Rock" restaurant.

Enjoy good food, entertainment, volleyball tournament, boat rides and more. Look for more detailed information to follow in the Sunday bulletins. "Hands of Faith Sunday" will be fun for the whole family!

*Be joyful always;
pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

