

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

2009

- | | |
|--|---|
| February 1st
High School Super Bowl Party
3:00-9:00 PM
(Clare High School Gym) | February 27th
Scrapbooking
6:00 PM |
| February 2nd
Quilting
6:00 PM | Wednesdays
Guys Night Out
in ROUTE 28
7-9:00 PM |
| February 21
Mission Auction
6:00 PM | March 14th
Pinewood Derby Race |
| February 24th
Leadership Training
7:00 PM | |

AFM ORDER DATES
 (see page 7)

GOOD



NEWS

FEBRUARY 2009

a publication of Brown Corners UB Church of Clare

5540 S. Clare Ave. • Clare, Michigan 48617-9496

Missions Team Biannual Benefit Auction



The Missions Team will host its biannual benefit auction on Saturday, February 21st beginning at 6 PM. The proceeds from the auction will help our teams provide many necessities to the groups they minister to. We'll be able to purchase materials for building homes and churches, medical needs & supplies, school supplies, food, and possibly help start some small businesses. At the auction, we'll provide drinks and finger foods so you can more easily get around and be part of the action. If you would like to donate an item or a service, please fill out one of the cards located at the table in the fellowship hall. This card helps us know what items will be donated and it allows you to claim your donation for tax purposes. If you prefer to be anonymous or don't care about claiming it for your taxes, just leave the appropriate areas blank. If you are donating an item, you may bring it to the church on or after Sunday, February 8th. If you are donating a service, Pastor Jeff will gladly print out a certificate with all the details of the service or you can provide one yourself. We are all looking forward to a great night of fun and fellowship! Make plans to be there!

Calling All Guys!

(High School and above.)
 Come on out to ROUTE 28 Wednesdays from 7-9:00 PM and do whatever you like with the 'guys'. ROUTE 28 and all its facilities are ours till the end of March. Bring a buddy along and play pool, ping pong, foosball, air hockey, carpet ball, or any number of other games, or just sit and tell deer stories. We may even put a basketball game, hunting show, or HGTV (Yeah Sure!) on the big screens.

Attention Quilters...

We meet every 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 PM somewhere in the church.
 Bring something to show and share.

Scrapbooking

DATE: February 27th
 TIME: 6:00 PM –12:00 AM
 (see Dusty Merritt if you having any questions).



2008

The Year in Review

It's always hard for me to remember things. Not just because I am getting older, but because my mind has always worked in the present, not the past or the future. I am truly a man of today. I have trouble remembering what year an event occurred. I also have trouble looking into the future. I envy people who can really plan ahead. But my mind doesn't work that way. I know guys who will pack a week, or even a month, ahead for a hunting trip, and I will toss my stuff in an hour before we leave and call it good. So far I haven't forgotten anything important. So, when I look back on 2008, you can be sure I won't include everything.

2008 was a good year for BCUB. We were able to finish off the new ROUTE 28 building, and it is in use as we speak. Lots of new kids are coming to youth groups and events as a result. Please pray that God expands His Kingdom through our use of the building.


Ask Him to guide us in its best use.

Our attendance, which had slipped from about 400 in 2006 to 375 in 2007, rebounded to about 400 again. That's good. Much of the increase came where much of the decrease had come, in the second service. The early service seems to remain about the same, but the later service seems to

fluctuate more. At this time, it seems to be on the upswing.

Finances are an interesting area. Regular giving decreased somewhat in the fall of 2008, about the same time the whole economy took a dive. I don't know if it was a financial thing or an emotional thing, but the giving has kind of leveled off, but at a slightly lower rate than before last fall. Only God knows what the future holds. Expenses have gone up, of course, though lately gas prices have come down some. We are doing our best to tighten the belt financially. The budget we approved reflects our desire to hold down expenses.

On the other hand, giving for special projects and interests has been great. We were able to finish off paying for ROUTE 28 as we built, and the only thing left is the final bill from the architect, and we have the money in hand for that. The Blacktop Fund is pretty well in hand now, too, so we can blacktop



ANGEL FOOD MINISTRY

Order Dates:
February 11th9:00 AM–6:00 PM
February 14th ..9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Distribution:
February 28th .. 9:30 AM–11:00 AM

The AFM menu can be viewed online:
www.browncorners.org

2008 Year in Review continued from page 2...

parts of the new parking lots as soon as weather permits.

Missions giving is great. Missions Partners really have a heart for missions. We are able to build projects and develop ministries in Nicaragua without having to wonder if there is money for the next project.

We enjoyed FPU, Alpha, Phil's Diner, Dinner Theatre, the Follies, Bassmasters, and a whole host of other events. All types of small groups, from SS classes to Grief Groups, to CSI groups, to Bible study groups, are ministering. Too many to name, actually.

We have studied and are in the process of implementing a 'Governance' style of leadership structure that will include an Elder Board. It helps us align our structure with our practice so that the Board will help set

the boundaries of the ministry, the Pastor will lead, the Staff will oversee the ministries, and the members of the congregation will minister.

Now, for the important part. I have recorded 20 people whom I know of who trusted Jesus Christ as Savior last year. I know that's not all, because I don't always hear from everyone. I would like to see many more come to Christ. I know you are sharing your faith, and so am I, but let's see if we can't ask God to give us twice that many for next year.

There is no where on earth I'd rather be than here, so let's pray that God will give wisdom to make changes where necessary in order to watch His Kingdom Grow.

–Pastor Chuck Malson
cmalson22@hotmail.com

New Sunday School Classes to Begin February 1st



We are excited to offer a new slate of Sunday School classes beginning on Sunday, February 1st.

Dave Luther will be teaching a class entitled "Love Talk." This class is designed to help couples strengthen their marriage. Wendy Kindel will be teaching "Don't Waste Your Life," a class based on the book of the same name by John Piper. You will be inspired to make your life count for eternity! Pastor Chuck will be teaching a Bible study class on the book of Romans. Jeff Dice will be teaching a class tentatively named "Miscellaneous Pop Culture." The first 4 planned lessons will cover these topics: **1.** How to discern harmful content in movies and TV shows, **2.** TV and internet filters: protecting me and my family, **3.** Using the internet to bolster my faith, and **4.** Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, and other popular web sites. Other class topics and activities will be directed by those in the class. Gene Robinson will continue his study of the book of Genesis. Be sure to check the bulletin or listen to announcements for changes to our Sunday School offerings.

"Don't Waste Your Life"

The Sunday School class called "Don't Waste Your Life" by John Piper will be taught by Wendy Kindel. Piper writes, "I will tell you what a tragedy is. I will show you how to waste your life. Consider this

story from the February 1998 Reader's Digest: A couple 'took early retirement from their jobs in the Northwest five years ago when he was 59 and she was 51. Now they live in Punta Gorda, Florida, where they cruise on their 30-foot trawler, play softball and collect shells...' Picture them before the Christ at the great day of judgement: 'Look, Lord. see my shells.' That is a tragedy."

Most people slip by in life without a passion for God, Spending their lives on trivial diversions, living for comfort and pleasure, and perhaps trying to avoid sin. This study will warn you not to get caught up in life that counts for nothing. It will challenge you to live and die boasting in the cross of Christ and making the glory of God your singular passion.

If you believe that to live is Christ and to die is gain, take this class, learn to live for Christ, and don't waste your life.

"Our prayer is that God would use this study to awaken in you a consuming desire not to throw your life away on "fatal success." Our desire is that Jesus Christ will explode into your life, unite your fractured dreams and fragmented heart, and produce a single, holy, all-embracing passion for His name. And then our hope is that in this passion you would be set free from small dreams and weak visions, that you would lay down your life for the cause of Christ in the world."

Come join this class. Let's work together to learn to truly believe and be able to honestly say with the Apostle Paul, "To live is Christ and to die is gain."

Children's Ministry

Great and exciting things are happening in Children's Ministry. In the past 8 months, we have had children accept Jesus as their personal savior.

The children have had chances to minister to others by helping with Angel Food Distribution and the Dinner Theater. We are planning for more means of ministering through out this year.

The Kid's in Kid's Klub packed 37 shoeboxes for Samaritan Purse's Christmas Child Program. They bought the items with their own earned Bible bucks.

The Pinewood Derby will be March 14th. This is always

a family fun time with lots of excitement as the cars race down the track. Men (or ladies) take the challenge and try to beat your friends at the racetrack. It's a great bonding time as you and your child work on the car together; also, a good time to invite unchurched friends for a non-threatening church experience. If you want to race a family car, please see Paul Kleist or Sally Mason very soon. The car kits are \$4 each.

Leota Farrell
Children's Ministry Director

ROUTE 28

SUNDAY EVENINGS

JUNIOR HIGH (5th-8th grade)	HIGH SCHOOL (9th-12th grade)
5:30-7:30 PM	7:15-9:15 PM

MONDAY NIGHTS

OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL & UP
7:00-10:00 PM

HIGH SCHOOL SUPER BOWL PARTY

Clare High School Gym
3:00-9:00 PM

February 1st



NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY



“Whirlwind”

by Cathy Marie Hake

Description (Amazon.com)

As a nanny, Millicent Fairweather poured her energy and talents into the two young charges under her care--only to have them suddenly and without explanation sent to a boarding school. Bereft and unsure of where life will lead her, she agrees to accompany her sister and brother-in-law to America. They board the Opportunity, confident a better life awaits. Widower Daniel Clark determines to begin life anew in Gooding, Texas, operating a mercantile. But when his nanny leaves him stranded aboard the ship with his young son, he finds himself in dire need of assistance. Obtaining temporary help from steerage, Daniel is initially taken aback by the pretty bundle of energy who takes over his suite. Yet Miss Fairweather's unique child-rearing techniques and tireless devotion to his son soon win him over.

When tragedy ensues and a whirlwind decision is made, Daniel and Millicent's lives irrevocably intertwine. Will love soon follow?



“Jessie”

by Lori Wick

Description (Amazon.com)

Jessie is book three in bestselling author Lori Wick's popular new Big Sky Dreams series (more than 215,000 copies sold). Readers will be transported to the vast landscape of Montana Territory in the late 1800s where they meet Jessie Wheeler, whose husband, Seth, abandoned her before their second child was born. As a single mom and the sole proprietor of Token Creek's general store, Jessie lives day to day with her hands full and her heart broken....

“The Quick-Fix Home Organizer: Making Your Home Beautiful and Your Life Clutter Free”

by Emilie Barnes

Description (Amazon.com)

Home management expert Emilie Barnes, whose books have sold more than 4.5 million copies, has a vast collection of home and life organization tips to share. The Quick-Fix Home Organizer is packed with brief, practical, and inspirational ideas to help readers create homes filled with peace and personality. Always warm and encouraging, Emilie motivates her readers to start and finish projects with success, create a home that reflects personal style, sort through and find the right place for piled-up papers, clothing, and toys, add fun and function to each room, and get the most out of a daily planner. By implementing these quick fixes, readers enjoy a more organized home and work space. They conserve their energy and discover more time to spend with family and friends.

“Love as a Way of Life: Seven Keys to Transforming Every Aspect of Your Life “

by Gary Chapman

Description (Amazon.com)

Advance Praise for LOVE AS A WAY OF LIFE

“Chapman follows up his five-million-copy bestseller The Five Love Languages with this wise, heartfelt guide to cultivating seven traits that lead to loving relationships. Whereas his work on love languages explored the primary ways people give and receive love, this book explores the nitty-gritty of an entire “attitude of love,” with chapters on kindness, patience, forgiveness, courtesy, humility, generosity, and honesty. Each chapter includes quizzes, questions for reflection, and ideas for applying that chapter's teachings. All self-help books run the risk of cliché, but Chapman manages to make tried-and-true material feel fresh through carefully chosen examples from his pastoral counseling practice and his own life....

This book is head and shoulders above the bulk of self-help literature precisely because it is not about ‘self’ so much as helping others.”

Delite Strouse
BCUB Librarian

