



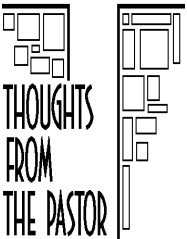
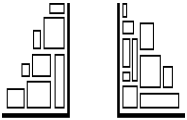
March 2005

Good + News

a publication of Brown Corners UB Church of Clare

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

...shout from the mountaintops!



So, have you been parking further from the doors of the church so visitors can park closer? Have you been watching for visitors so you can introduce yourself to them and help them feel comfortable at BCUB? What! What are you waiting for! Oh, you have been. Good. Thanks. Your ministry of hospitality and care is very important for our guests.

This month, let's look at the factors involved in making decisions in the church. Just how are decisions made in different sized churches? As we have been looking at the principles at play in different sizes of churches, we have learned that each size, 25-199, 200-399, and 400 and up, has its own characteristics and challenges.

In each church change is viewed differently. In the small church, change is the nemesis. In a medium church, change is necessary, and in a large church change is natural. So, what is it here at BCUB, the nemesis, necessary, or natural? Some of each, don't you think? As individuals, we all view change as the enemy. We like things as they are. We are happy to have things remain the same. We can count on them. Years ago, a lady told me that if we changed the service times again, she would be leaving the church. In a very nice way, I explained that if times needed changing, they would change, but not just to offend her.

Continued on page 2...

Holy Week Events

March 24th

Maundy Thursday Service.....7:00 PM

March 25th

Good Friday Service.....7:00 PM

March 27th, Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service.....7:00 AM

Sunrise Breakfast*7:30 AM

*Men Needed to Cook Breakfast for the Easter Sunrise Service. If you can help please contact Dusty Merritt, 539-6783 or the Church office, 386-2702.

Prayer Walk April 16th

The Prayer Team has scheduled a Prayer Walk around the Clare Schools on Saturday, April 16. We plan to meet for breakfast and for a short time of prayer before proceeding to the schools. If you would like to join us, let me know. If you have requests for the schools in general, for a particular student or group of students, teachers, administrators or other staff get the requests to us as soon as possible. We will be preparing lists of prayer requests for those who are going to pray.



Carol Hampton, 386-9738

Thoughts from the Pastor Continued from page 1 ...

The longer things remain the same, the harder it is to change. Actually, that is the force that's behind many decisions in a small church: the desire to have things remain the same. Decisions are based on the past and retaining a certain identity. In fact, leadership in a small church usually resides in a few lay people who are either related by blood or by long experience in the church. They know that pastors come and go, so they view it as their responsibility to keep the church going as it always has, no matter who the pastor is. Typically, the pastor stays in a church 3.8 years, so it makes good sense to those in leadership to keep things going on an even keel.

In a medium church, the leadership is in transition. There are new ministries sprouting, with

new leaders. The ideas for change come from new directions, not from the established lay leadership. New people come into the church and bring new ideas with them. Change becomes necessary. The look of the leadership changes. The institution of new ideas is required in order to accomplish these new ministries. Change, though the nemesis for a small church, becomes necessary for the medium one.

It is necessary for the medium church to welcome new ideas and leaders. If it doesn't, the church will shrink to the size that those who will not accept change will allow. That's why I love it here at BCUB. Brown Corners is willing to accept new ideas, new people, new leaders,

and change in general, I see that taking place in most areas. Sure, all of us would like to keep things the way they are, or were, but in a growing church, that's unrealistic. As our kids grew, didn't we buy different sized clothes fitted to the new size? That's what we do in church, too.

In the large church, change is normal, natural, expected, and even welcomed. The focus changes from the small church's desire to look inward and backward to keep the membership happy to looking outward and forward to new vistas of ministry. The medium church is in the transition from one to the other. I looked at the ministry plan of a large church the other day and found that one of their core values was to expect, enjoy, and even embrace change.

So, you can see what would drive decisions in each sized church. The small church would be driven to keep things as they are so the membership is content. The medium church is forced to make changes necessary to enable the church to grow. The Large church expects to make changes regularly in order to reach the world for Christ.

At BCUB, we are in the midst of the transition. We know that God has called us to win as many people in our community as we can, so our focus must be outward, not inward. We are responsible to make the changes necessary to allow God to use us to the max. Change used to be the nemesis, the

Continued on page 5 ...

who do not know Christ, while encouraging one another

Wild Kingdom exists to equip students to reach those

WILD KINGDOM	
Junior High <u>Sunday Evenings</u> 5:30-6:30PM Game Room 6:30-7:30PM In the Jungle <u>Wednesday Evenings</u> 6:00-7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00-8:00 PM Quiz Team Practice	COMING SOON! Halo 2 Tournament A Look Ahead to Summer Creation 2005 June 28 - July 3 Canadian Fishing Trip (TBA) Amazing Race '05 August
Senior High <u>Sunday Evenings</u> 6:45-7:45PM Game Room 7:45-9:00PM In the Jungle <u>Monday Evenings</u> 7:00-10:00 PM in the Jungle <u>Wednesday Evenings</u> 7:00-8:00 PM Quiz Team Practice	

as we exalt Christ and seek opportunities to serve others.

Lay Ministry Report

Contact Team - Wendy Kindel

We have a new up-dated Welcome CD available on the Welcome Table. If you have a friend or co-worker you want to invite to Browns, give them a Welcome CD for a warm, inviting invitation and a little information about us.

You can get the current week's service on CD or tape during the Sunday School hour. We also have a new look for our labels. Pick one up and share the service with a friend via CD or tape.

Wendy Kindel
Lay Ministry Coordinator



Thanks-And Introduction

Our thanks go to Kris Card who has served as our Church Treasurer for the past couple years. Thank you for all your hard work, Kris.

We also want to introduce to you Jennifer Long, who has been asked by the Board of Administration to serve as our Treasurer. Jennifer and her husband, Mike, have attended here about 3 years. Mike teaches kindergarten at Harrison Elementary. They also have a little one, Emma Kathryn, who keeps them both busy. Welcome to Jennifer, and thank you for your willingness to serve in this important area of ministry.

Thoughts from the Pastor Continued from page 2 ...

enemy. We have already accepted it as necessary. In order to grow, we must now go a step further and embrace the idea of change so that we may win our part of the world.

I find it interesting that many Christian business people are on the cutting edge of their business, but want the church to remain the same for eternity. As businesses adjust to meet changing conditions, so must the church. I don't know what changes are in our future, but let's start changing our minds now and accepting the idea that change isn't so bad after all. In fact, it may even be good.

Pasta Malson
e-mail: cmalson22@hotmail.com

Library Ministry

Our featured author this month . . .

Mindy Starns Clark



All five of her Million Dollar Mystery Series will be available in the library. The books include: "A Penny For Your Thoughts", "Don't Take Any Wooden Nickels", "A Dime a Dozen", "Quarter For a Kiss", "The Buck Stops Here".

Book Review: "A Penny For Your Thoughts"

With this debut novel, Mindy Starns Clark creates a memorable and unique sleuth: Callie Webber, agent of a philanthropic organization (remember "The Millionaire"?). Callie's mission is to investigate non-profit organizations to assure they are legitimate and deserving of the rich guy's grants. In this installment, however, she's just supposed to drop off a check and leave--until the recipient drops dead practically before her eyes. Even jaded mystery readers will be wondering which of the many suspects is the killer--and more importantly, why. A fast-moving, puzzling, fascinating read. Word is, there are more Callie Webber books on the way, and that is good news for anyone interested in a good mystery.

(From www.amazon.com)

— Delite Strouse





Brown Corners

United Brethren in Christ Church
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Procession of the Palms

News



& Dates to Remember . . .

WILD KINGDOM

Quiz Team Practice
-Wednesday Nights 7-8:00 PM
(see page 2 for more news)

March 2005 Meetings
Tuesday, March 8th
7:00 PM.....Teams Meet
7:45 PM.....Prayer
8:15 PM.....Ad Board Meets

March 12th
Children's Ministry
Teaching Seminar
9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
At the church.
(see page 4 for details)

- March 17th**
St. Patricks Day
- March 20th, Palm Sunday**
Spring Begins
- March 24th**
Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 PM
- March 25th**
Good Friday Service 7:00 PM
- March 27th, Easter Sunday**
Sunrise Service 7:00 AM
Breakfast 7:30 AM
- April 16th**
Prayer Walk
- April 11th Alpha Course Begin**
April 11 thru June 13th



Alleluia! He is alive!

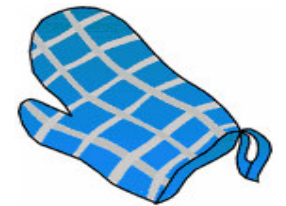
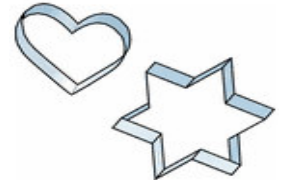
BCUB COOKBOOK



Brown Corners Church Family,
It's time for a new church cookbook. We would like everyone to contribute their favorite recipes to be included in the cookbook due out this fall. Forms will be available at the church.



Your cookbook committee,
Julie Moore, Joanne Pittman, Kelly Jarstfer,
Jerry Lutren, & Jodie Robinson



Small Groups



Small Groups*, where can you fit in? One size, or style doesn't fit all. God is expanding Small Groups by calling new leaders and leading us to new types of groups. Here is a synopsis of our groups; maybe one will be just what you have been looking for.

Study Groups: These are our traditional groups we started back in 1999. We have recently added two new groups and will continue to add groups. As the name implies, a large part of the meeting time in these groups is spent studying a portion of scripture. Group meetings include sharing a desert or in some cases even a meal together, Bible study, and prayer time. Groups stay together as long as they want and welcome new members at any time.

Alpha Groups: We are about two thirds of the way into our second Alpha course. Alpha is a ten-week practical introduction to the Christian faith. During each of the meetings the groups share supper together, watch a teaching video, then meet in small groups. The highlight of the course is the weekend away when we concentrate on the Holy Spirit. Although the course is designed for seekers, mature Christians from our congregation who participated in the first course enjoyed it. When ask how their relationship with God has changed after the course many said their relationship is more intimate. We have found that anyone, no matter where they are in their Christian walk, will enjoy this course. The next course begins April 11th and runs through June 13th.

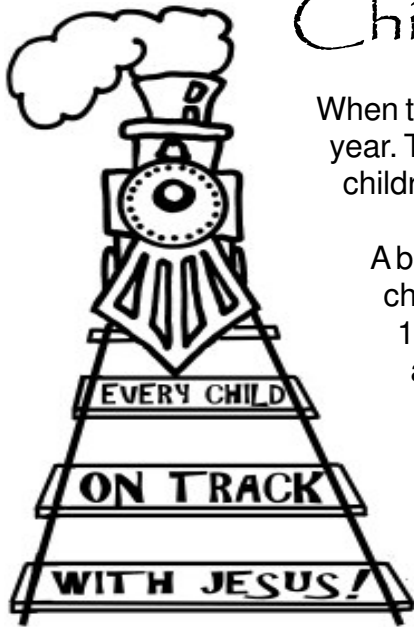
CSI (Community Special Interest) Groups:

What a fun idea! Take an activity or interest you love spending time at or would like to spend time doing, make it a group activity, and grow the Kingdom! How? Share you faith by sharing your life. During your activity, get to know each other and become a part of each other's lives. Love each other by celebrating joys and grieving together. Help each other with needs. As the opportunities arise share your faith, a word of encouragement, or God's plan of salvation. As you might expect the most time in these groups is spent enjoying an activity together but every meeting includes a prayer, testimony, or devotion. Groups start and end on a regular schedule three times a year. Some groups may choose to continue at each new starting time.

Wendy Kindel
Lay Ministry Coordinator

*Pick up a Small Group brochure from the Welcome Table for a description of Study and CSI Groups. Alpha Brochures are also available with meeting dates and topics of study.

Children's Ministry News



When the children's ministry team met last month we set dates for the entire year. These dates should be put on your calendars, especially if you have children ages 2 years through 4th grade.

A brunch and teaching seminar on DVD from the book "Transforming children into Spiritual Champions" will be held March 12th from 9 AM to 12 Noon. As a parent, you are welcome, and encouraged to attend, along with our teachers and helpers. This will be excellent insight for you as you raise your children to live for Jesus in a world that discourages righteous living.

A Spring party for the children will be April 9th. More details later, but be planning now to have your children (and their friends) at this fun event.

VBS will be the week of June 20-24th By letting you know well in advance, we are trusting you can plan for it in your busy schedules.

I want the church family to know that our teachers and helpers in the children's churches, Sunday school, and Pioneer Clubs are very much appreciated for their faithfulness. Your children are in good hands with these wonderful people who love your children and are teaching them God's truths.

Thank you, teachers and helpers. God's blessings to you,

Leota Farrell
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Prayer Opportunities



We are told in Ephesians 6:18 to: "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." And in Colossians 4:2: "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." And in Philippians 4:6: "Do not be

anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God."

How do we find enough time for prayer with our lives so full of work, feeding our family, keeping our house in order and all the myriad other tasks for which we are responsible?

The answer may be in making the most of those tasks that can be frustrating, but don't require our minds to be active to carry out.

- (1) Do you commute? Even a few moments of your commuting time spent in prayer can prepare you for your day and help you to unwind at the end of the day to be ready for interaction with your family
- (2) How about when you take out the garbage? A task most don't enjoy. But we can give thanks that we have more than enough to eat so that we accumulate garbage. We can pray for the family members who eat the food, wear the clothes, play with the toys so that wrappings, etc. end up in the garbage/trash.

We'll try to add to this list each month to remind us to redeem the time and use usually wasted moments for prayer. If you have suggestions; send them to me c/o the church office and perhaps you'll see your suggestion some month.

Carol Hampton