



# Chapel Call

November/December 2011

## The Pastor's Corner

### Lost and Found in Life's Maze

*Dear Friends,*

By the time you read this, the corn will all be cut, the fields fallow for winter. But not too long ago the annual corn maze craze was at full spate. I've never attempted a corn maze. I can't say that it's in my bucket list, and even less so after reading about the poor family that got lost in the corn maze on Bob Connors' farm in Danvers, Mass.

As corn mazes go, it wasn't especially challenging. "A typical visitor should be able to complete it in about 20 minutes," he said. Evidently, this news-making family was not typical. The two parents set off into the maze, toting an infant. It was, evidently, a kind of "coming out" for the new baby. No doubt the new mom was nervous.

Somehow, the new family got discom-bobulated, panicked, and called 911. This set off a chain of events that soon turned them into a target for jabs from Jay Leno and other television comedians. The punch line was that they were only about 25 feet from the exit when they called for help. Bob Connors says that in all his years of hosting folks in his corn mazes, he has never before had one who

needed to be rescued, probably because he gives every visitor a "passport" with clues on how to get out. And because there are signs posted within the maze advising lost customers to send a "corn text" to a help line in case they need help.

There are parallels to life here, of course. In a real way, birth into this world launches us into a maze far more complicated than the one Bob Connors cuts in his corn field.

Life's maze has lots of turns and twists. It's often confusing. It's easy to lose the way. Though God has provided a written "passport," it's easy to lay it on the shelf as a flower-presser. There are signs from God, all along the way, to give direction. But you have to pay close attention to see them.

Once you get lost, it's easy to panic and magnify your trouble by making more wrong turns. It's hard to admit that you're lost. It's even harder to ask for help. Jesus said once that he had come to seek and save the lost. We celebrate that truth every time we sing *Amazing Grace*. "I once was lost, but now I'm found."

I keep thinking about this poor couple, tromping through the maze in

the falling darkness with lumps of fear in their throats. They were ridiculed by the world for their stupidity. Made fun of because, when they were lost, they called for help. But think of it this way. Who really are the fools? Those who keep tromping and tromping into deeper lostness, or those who realize their trouble and cry out for help?

Life's a maze, alright. If you've lost your way, dialing 911 won't help. But calling out to God will. It turns out that he's already there in the maze with you, ready to rescue. And he won't chastise or ridicule you. He'll throw his arms around you, then take your hand and lead you out of your lostness. "I once was lost, but now I'm found."

Think of how good that will feel.

Warmly,

*Bob*



# Answers to Your Stephen Ministry FAQs *By Sharon Dexter*

## Your Stephen

Ministry leadership needed some “How Are We Doing?” feedback and decided to conduct a sample poll. Each leader approached a few individuals, one-on-one.

Let me respond to your FAQs (frequently asked questions).

Each Stephen Minister first survives 4½ months (total of 50 hours) in classes, plus assigned readings. Once a care-receiver is assigned to an ordained Stephen Minister, they meet approximately one hour each week.

Also, all Stephen Ministers meet together twice a month for continuing education and supervision. Our reports are phrased in broad terms, maintaining complete confidentiality. (These sessions are designed to benefit the Stephen Minister in caring.)

Yes, we stress the Christian aspect. Each training and supervision session begins with a devotional and prayer. We also pray with and for our care-receivers. The Stephen Ministry mantra is “We

provide the care, Christ provides the cure.”

Stephen Ministry is most effective when your own support group isn't quite enough. Others may expect you to change, and to

follow their advice. They may seem disappointed in your seeming lack of progress. Though a Stephen Minister may offer suggestions, these are in the vein of “Have you considered this option?” We listen, and offer Christ's “cup of cold water.”

Not everyone will need a Stephen Minister. But, if an unexpected moment arises for a friend (or for yourself), please consider a trained Stephen Minister's loving care. It's as easy as contacting Sally Bardin, our referral-coordinator. Nobody but Sally, and your

Stephen Minister will ever know you have been assigned a Stephen Minister ... unless **you** tell them.

When asked to describe Stephen Ministry, I usually say: It is a one-on-one, Christian, non-judgmental, “listening ear.” In coming weeks, please check the Sunday Bulletin for one (or two)- sentence descriptions provided by those we polled.



Speak Out  
... By the  
Kids

## Why Do We Doubt? *By Anastasia Bouras*

**Immediately** *Jesus reached out*

*his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:31*

In a society where God can sometimes be the only one we can trust and rely on, why do we doubt? As I was sitting in youth group the other day this question came up.

Suddenly the discussion went silent and no one could really answer the question. It struck me as surprising because even I wasn't really sure. It could be a number of reasons but when you think about it, those should be the things that bring you closer to God because you should pray and look to him for strength in those times. As we all pondered our thoughts a new question arose, it was, what about the little kids?

Why is it so easy for them to follow God so faithfully? We came to the decision that it was their overall innocence and hunger to learn about him that made it so easy. Children fully trust in God by giving him all their problems and fears.

Yes, it is true that they don't face taking care of a family or paying the bills but we can all take baby steps to fully trusting God. This is your test, channel your inner child and think of things that you can give to God to lighten your load. When times get tough, don't doubt God but find it as another stepping-stone in your walk with him. He is the one who will always be there, so look to him often and soon all doubts will vanish and an eternal bond will form.



## Mission Moments

# Joy Children's Home Nurtures HIV+ Orphans

The following article was contributed by Rudy Miller, a Tree of Lives Missionary in Kenya.

## As Holy Family

Center HIV/AIDS Clinic expanded their operations at Nazareth Hospital it became apparent that there were life threatening issues regarding HIV+ children. Many of these 500 HIV+ children are orphans and dealing with the stigma of HIV/AIDS. At the present time very few children's homes will admit HIV+ children.

In 2010, a generous Kenyan donated a large home and compound to the Archdiocese of Nairobi/ Nazareth Hospital with the understanding that the property be used as a children's home. The home is located in Ngarariga, a short distance from Nazareth Hospital.

In partnership with Tree of Lives, the hospital has founded the Joy Children's Home. Together they will help HIV+, abandoned or orphaned children by integrating them into a Christian family environment. Children will be nurtured and supported by a "mother" and up to ten children will create a family.



Each child will benefit from the home providing necessities as clothing, meals, medical care and a quality education.

To date, three mothers have completed 12 weeks of training in parenting skills, housekeeping, nutritional science, and educational and psychological needs of children. As of Oct. 1, eighteen children have been admitted into the Joy Home and it is anticipated that enrollment will reach 20 by year's end.

Please consider making a donation through Chapel on the Hill to this beautiful project.

## Pantry Has Served 300 Families This Year *By Kerry Lemuell*

I'm pleased to say, as I write this, that we currently have 10 volunteers for the Chapel on the Hill food pantry. These ten individuals definitely leave their shift feeling "blessed to have been a blessing." Three hundred families (900 children of God) have graced our doors this year. Praise God for our ability to stay open and serve in this economy.

Please understand that this opportunity is in most part because of you, the Chapel congregation. Everyone can help us accomplish the task of providing proper nourishment to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Every dollar and every can of food is important. No donation is "too small", so don't even think that. Please open your heart to this ministry.

Sean Walker opened his heart and God provided him with the strength and determination to complete a triathlon! Sean has chosen to donate the sponsor-

ship money he raised to the food pantry ministry. As a result, many people have been blessed and are sporting sincere smiles. Personally, I'd like to say "thank you Sean", on behalf of all those who will be blessed by your generosity. One man has made a difference. You can too.

No, I'm not suggesting you complete a triathlon—I'm exhausted simply writing about it!

My friends, please help keep the food pantry stocked. All donations are welcome. Our primary needs are: cereal, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, rice, boxed potatoes, Ramen noodles, spaghetti sauce, pasta, tuna, baked beans, pancake mix, syrup, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soup, and last but not least, cash. I encourage you to bring an item or two when you attend our Sunday service of worship. Then you too will be "blessed to be a blessing."



# CAC's Fabulous Fall, Wonderful Winter *By Jeff Quinto*

## The Singing Men of Oak

**Brook** presented a powerful concert of sacred and patriotic music in early October. This is the second year the 30-plus voice choir has performed in the CAC. Like last year, the Chapel's own Rex Wilkinson joined the Singing Men. Prior to joining the Chapel, Rex was a longtime member and former President of the Singing Men.

"**Once Upon a Time Shop**," our fall children's musical, was a great success.

The cast included 36 area children including many from the Chapel family. Mark Thomas Noel ably directed the fast-paced story of orphans, a hard-hearted lady and a talking grandfather clock. It was a treat for all who saw it.



**Once Upon a Time Shop was performed by 36 area children.**

Robert Ray's inspiring **Gospel Mass** was performed at the CAC on October 23. Chapel Music Director Denise Olson championed the idea of an ecumenical choir performing the Mass that in the end involved 27 singers from nine different area churches. It was a moving performance that I hope will be repeated next year. Bringing together so many talented Christian singers in our beautiful auditorium resulted in an enjoyable and inspiring afternoon for all of us who attended. The Mass was produced by Cindy Odden and Tom Hilker served as Music Director.

**Amahl and the Night Visitors** – This beautiful one-act opera is centered on the Three Kings of the Orient who followed the star to give gifts to the baby Jesus. The fictional story takes place when the Three Kings stop for the night at the home of a poor mother and her crippled son and is both inspiring and humorous. It will be per-

formed at the CAC on Friday and Saturday, December 2 and 3 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 pm. This holiday offering is being directed by Denise Olson.



### **Huntley Brown in Concert** –

Huntley Brown will perform in concert in our sanctuary on Saturday night, January 21 at 7:30 pm. Last January, Huntley gave what was the most amazing piano performance I, for one, had ever

seen. Huntley's hands moved so quickly across the keyboard it looked like an optical illusion. The \$10 tickets can be purchased from the Chapel office and would make a wonderful Christmas gift.

### **Miracle Worker**

– Sean Walker will

be directing this moving story of Helen Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan. Auditions will be held at the CAC on Monday and Tuesday, January 9 and 10 at 7:30 pm and the show will be presented at 7:30 pm on Friday and Saturday, March 2, 3, 9 and 10 and on Sunday, March 11. Even if you have never been in a play, you should try out. Speaking as Joe the Mover from last year's Father of the Bride, performing onstage is a lot of fun, even if you are short on talent, like me.

The Christian Arts Center is a truly a gift from God. Through this gift we are able to offer high quality performances that reflect wonderfully on the Chapel and help to proclaim the Good News in a way that is both meaningful and enjoyable for everyone who attends our performances. I hope you will join us for each of our plays and concerts. See you at the show!



# Thank You for Returning Baby Jesus *By Eileen Altenburg*

## "Thank You for Returning

Baby Jesus" read the portable sign in front of an office. I assumed someone had stolen, and later returned, the Baby Jesus figure from the nativity set from the front of the building.

I've thought about the phrase, "Thank You for Returning Baby Jesus" since I saw the

sign, and I wondered what other meaning the phrase could have. Why would someone return Baby Jesus?

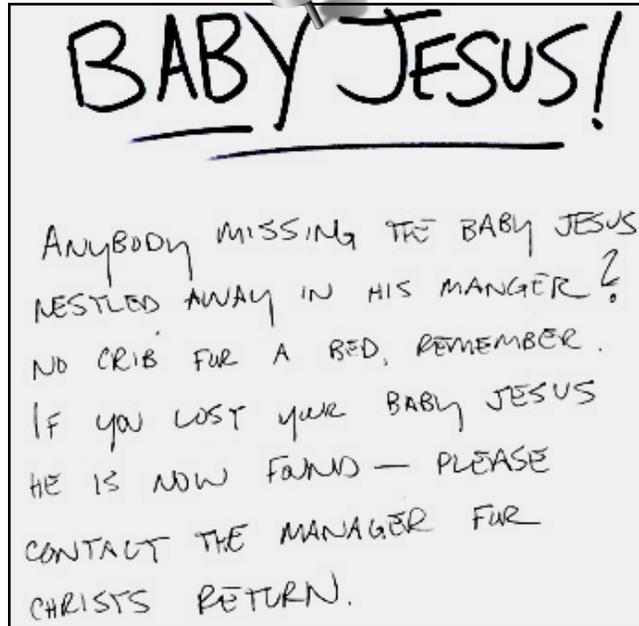
Jesus, who came to earth as Baby Jesus, was a gift from our Heavenly Father to provide for our eternal salvation. People return gifts because they're the wrong color, size, or style. People also return gifts because they aren't needed or be-

cause they already have something like it. Why would you decide to return a gift from God?

Perhaps, you decide the gift of Jesus is too costly to keep. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Perhaps that's a higher price than you're willing to pay.

To accept the gift of Jesus means I must make changes. If I accept Jesus, I'll give up self-control for God-control. If I accept Jesus, my attention will focus on spiritual things, not earthly things. If I accept Jesus, others should see evidence of a change in my behavior. If I accept Jesus, I can no longer be self-indulgent in my thinking; I must think of God and others. If I accept Jesus, I shouldn't be satisfied with mediocrity, because I know God has a higher potential for me. If I accept Jesus, I'll be different from people around me.

What are the benefits of deciding to keep the gift of Jesus? Do you ever feel overwhelmed? Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)



Do you feel lost? Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) If you accept the gift of Jesus you have access to God Almighty, and eterni-

ty with Him. (Think about that for a while.)

Do you feel uncertain and fearful? Jesus said, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:26, 27)

Christmas is the time of year for giving and receiving gifts. God gave each of us the gift of His Son. Will you be keeping Baby Jesus? Or will you be returning Baby Jesus?



# Small Group Ministry Begins New Year *By Kathy Ferguson*

**On Sunday,** September 18, the Small Group Ministry at the Chapel on the Hill had their annual kick off. As I stood up in front of the congregation with the eleven leaders of the small groups, I realized how much God has blessed our congregation with such amazing leadership. In the past two years the number of small groups has tripled here at the Chapel. The Holy Spirit is definitely working among the people in our congregation.

Why don't you try a small group if you are not already in one? We offer something for everyone.

Here are some of the small groups available:

**Men's Group** – meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays at 8:00 am - Parish Hall Youth Room.  
Scot Ferguson – 262.957.0326.

Their current study is "Dare to Be Uncommon" by Tony Dungy.

**Mary/Martha** – meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Marie Nelson – 262.728.5083.

Their current study is "Bitterness" by Charles Stanley and "Life Lessons for Women" by Charles Swindoll.

**Cornerstone** – meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 pm at Judy Ramacitti's home in Pell Lake - 262.279.3695.

Their current study is the Book of Psalms.

**The Bereans** – meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 7-9 pm at Lloyd and Eileen Knutson's home in Lake Geneva – 262.248.9362.

Their current study is "When Faith is All You Have" from Hebrews 11.

**COTH Singles Group** – a variety of events and activities offered each month.

Pam Westberg – 262.745.3496.

**Sonseekers** – meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

Lee and Nancy Hoeft – 262.275.2925.

**The United Ones** – meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at Inspiration Ministries at 6:30.

Jeff Quinto – 312.685.5333.

Their current study is the book of Luke.

**Hospitality Ministry** – meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday following worship services in the Sanctuary.

Serves in a variety of ways at many Chapel functions  
Eileen Altenburg – 262.642.2526.

**Sisters in Spirit** – will resume in January.

Sally Bardin – 262.245.9122.

**IMPACT Youth Group** – meets Sunday mornings at 9 am and Wednesdays at 6 pm in the Parish Hall Youth Room.

Their current study is "Soul Surfer."

Mark Thomas Noel – 262.374.4532

**Marriage Enrichment** – will start in January and following a one day seminar we will begin an 8 week study called "Fireproof."

Kathy Ferguson – 262.203.1730.

Watch for more details.



Please contact any of these leaders or myself if you have any questions about the Small Group Ministry at the Chapel on the Hill. If you feel called to start a new group or you see a need that is not being met, feel free to call me. New groups or ideas for groups are always welcome!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### November

2 Meg Turner



3 Maureen Lugo

4 Linda Struble

Alan Einbeck

5 Jake Schultz

9 Judy Gray

10 Jessica Horstman

14 Tom Connon

Josh Muth

18 Bill Lechner

Natalie Long

20 Dennis Faltis

Hunter Heisz

20 Joy Muth

Judy Stern

22 Susan Sebastian

24 Katie Ledwell

26 Hannah Jeninga

27 Paul Regalia

28 Zakary Burrow

#### December

1 Noah Olson

2 Dean Griffith

3 Jack Cannon

Bonnie Nordentoft

4 William Harris

5 Ken Kueter

7 Fred Jeninga

Robbie Rayfield

8 Robert Blagg

9 Jacob Leonard

11 Evelyn Braam

Abby Odden

Brent Wamboldt

12 Peggy Kiddell

13 Chelby Daniels

14 Marie Dumdey

Mary Hach

Carol Jaeger

15 Alison Blagg

19 Jack Lloyd

Rachel Stern

22 Priscilla Kreger

23 Sally Bardin

24 Carole Dornbusch

Kimberly Duckworth

Carol Sams

25 Guy Ledwell

27 Juanita Sessner

28 Jenni Muth

Gloria Wallace

31 Scot Ferguson

Jo Ann Jeninga

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

#### November

2 Kenneth & Becky Hess

#### December

13 Ralph & Gloria Wallace

31 Gary & Sue Ginner



## Reason — Season — Lifetime *By Reverend Jim Kennedy*

People come into your life for a **Reason**, a **Season** or a **Lifetime**. When you know which one it is, you will know what to do for that person ...

When someone is in your life for a **Reason**, it is usually to meet a need You have expressed.

They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support.

To aid you physically, emotionally or spiritually.

They may seem like a godsend and they are.

They are there for the **Reason** you need them to be.

Then, without any wrongdoing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end.

Sometimes they die. Sometimes they just walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand.

What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done.

The prayer you sent up has been answered and

now it is time to move on.

Some people come into your life for a **Season** because your turn has come to share, grow or learn.

They bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh.

They may teach you something you have never done.

They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy!

Believe it, it is real, but only for a **Season**.

**Lifetime** relationships teach you lifetime lesson, things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation.

Your job is to accept the lesson.

Love the person and put what you have learned to us in all other relationships and areas of your life.

It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

Thank you for being a part of my life, whether you were a **Reason**, a **Season** or a **Lifetime**.

## Tony Dungy's Uncommon Men's Bible Study

**As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another - Prov. 27:17 (NIV)**

*Tony Dungy says it's time ...  
for every man to choose an Uncommon life!*

*This Super Bowl-winning coach has spent his life shaping young men. Now, Tony Dungy is ready to share core truths he wants every man to understand, live by, and pass on to others.*

*Examine your life—and aspire to a life of renewed integrity... influence...and faith. With this Bible study you'll tackle key principles found in Tony Dungy's UNcommon.*

*You'll explore Scripture, engage in discussion, encounter character-building insights—and uncover what it means to live a life of true significance.*

*Seven sessions reinforce important life lessons captured in UNcommon.*

1. Strengthening Your Core
2. Loving Your Family
3. Lifting Your Friends and Others
4. Your Full Potential
5. A Mission That Matters
6. Influence Over Image
7. Live Your Faith



**Meeting at the Chapel on the Hill  
Parish Hall, first and third Saturdays  
at 8:00 am, starting November 5**



N2440 Ara Glenn Drive  
 Lake Geneva, WI 53147  
 Tel. 262-245-9122

**Address Service  
 Requested**

And our  Present

Director: DENISE OLSON  
 Music Director: REX WILKINSON

*Amahl and the Night Visitors*  
 by Gian-Carlo Menotti

December 2, 3 & 4  
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 Sunday Matinee 3:00 p.m.

All Seats: \$10  
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