

The Baptist Visitor

Our Pastor's Paragraphs

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Breathe Grace

I love being around people who breathe Grace. Ken Sande in his book "The peacemaker" says, "They draw continually on the goodness and power of Jesus Christ, and they bring his love, mercy, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom to the conflicts of daily life". I can almost smell the grace as I type those words at my desk this Friday morning. As I think about my own life, that is the heart I wish to have. As I contemplate the author of Hebrews words "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith" I hope you can look back on your pastors near and far and say I learned much of grace and peace from these men.

A reality of life is when we live in near proximity to one another conflict will arise. Conflict is inevitable. No relationship is immune. When managed biblically, conflict can serve as a

catalyst for change and an opportunity for spiritual and relational growth. Why then are we afraid to tell our friends her words hurt us, to ask our boss for a raise, or to confront our family member about his drinking problem and its effect on his family? Proverbs tells us in 27:5-6 "Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses."

How should we understand conflict? We need to understand it the way the Bible understands it. Jim VanYperen in his book "MakingPeace" says Conflict is ...

1 Relational

"And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15, NKJV)

2 Spiritual

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but

From the Desk of Senior Pastor Jon Vincent

against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12, NKJV)

3 Inevitable

"For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish." (Galatians 5:17, NKJV)

4 Necessary

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage

March

Letters from Laura



New Year's greetings from snowy and frigid Illinois!

In November, I finished my ministries in "Iglesia Bautista de La Primavera" (Baptist Church of the Primavera neighborhood). My colleague Lynell Smith and I had planned to move on eventually, but not this soon, and this is not how we planned to leave. However, we know that we can trust the Lord. He has good plans for us during this transition and in the future.

Following that, Lynell and I facilitated a workshop entitled, *The Treasure of our Single Women: Appreciating Biblical Singleness* to two groups of women, which included single and married women. The ladies participated enthusiastically, and they were very thankful for what they learned!

In light of this transition in ministry, our administrator gave us permission to spend extra time in the US during this holiday season for rest and recuperation. Therefore, I am writing to you from Illinois, where I am very grateful to be with **family and friends**. I have been spending time with my

mom and my siblings and their families, as well as with two precious friends. I've even gotten in some sledding and cross-country skiing! The Lord is so generous to me!

As for the future, after returning to Ecuador on January 15, and followed by a field team retreat January 23-25, the beginning of the year is packed with teaching opportunities. Colleagues Melissa Nieves and Lynell Smith and I will be teaching the *Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship* seminar at the Pro-Life summit in Lima, Peru in February. Then Lynell and I (and hopefully other ABWE colleagues) will be teaching that seminar, plus *Moving Beyond Lecture*, and *The Treasure of our Single Women: Appreciating Biblical Singleness* in Trujillo, Peru. March will find us teaching *Moving Beyond Lecture* with other colleagues at the Bible college in Santiago, Chile.

A special thanks this month to my faithful editors: **Cindy** (English), **Ximena** (Spanish) and **Zarife** (Portuguese). Thanks for helping me to say it right!

And thank you so much for your faithful prayers,

Laura



Feb.	Sun. Worship	Sun. School
4th	136	93
11th	105	65
18th	112	72
25th	135	83

GENERAL CHURCH FUND FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY	
General Off - \$12,586.57	Approx. Expenses:
Mission Tithing - \$1,398.51	\$14,313.45
Total Offering - \$13,985.08	
OTHER RECEIPTS	
Sunday School - \$290.30	Fellowship off. - \$226.50
Dividends - \$0.00	Designated Ministry - \$1,600.00
Coffee / Pop - \$0.00	Boss Community Center - \$450.00
Misc. Reimbursements - \$201.63	Youth Fund - \$0.00
Special Programs Fund- \$0.00	College Fund - \$0.00
Special Interest Fund - \$0.00	

GENERAL CHURCH FUND FINANCIAL REPORT Year-To-Date	
Total 2018 Budget	\$287,688.43
Income	
General Offering	\$31,053.25
Initial Offering	\$125.00
Gas for Vehicle	\$0.00
Now Acct Interest	\$0.00
1/2 Merritt Dividend	\$0.00
Use of Building	\$150.00
Boss Comm. Center	\$900.00
Total Income	\$32,228.25
Expenses	
Mission Tithe	\$0.00
Payroll	\$25,797.65
Payroll Benefits	\$6,845.66
Trustee Board	\$9,914.09
Deacon & Deaconess Bd.	\$2,057.57
Mission Board	\$0.00
Music Committee	\$1,174.31
Decoration Committee	\$0.00
Social Committee	\$0.00
Dues	\$35.00
Boss Comm. Center	\$2,781.46
Total Expenses	\$48,605.74
*Mission Tithing Checks are sent quarterly 1st quarter ends March 31st, 2018	

MARCH 2018



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1. Women's Club 1:30 pm Girl Scouts 4:00 pm Cubs Scouts 6:00pm College Group 7:00pm	2.	3. Memorial Service for Shirley Robbins 11:00 a.m.	
4. Communion Sunday Youth Group 6:00pm	5. Hannah Circle Meeting 6:30pm Troop 106 7:00pm	6. Christian Fellowship Group Meeting 7:00pm Community Choir 7:00pm	7. Kids Club Dinner 5:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:00pm Kids Club 6:00pm Choir -7:00pm	8. Girls Scouts 4:00pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm College Group 7:00pm	9. Women's Center Mobile 11:00 am - 4:00 pm	10.
11. Deacon Meeting 4:30pm Trustee 5:00pm Mission 5:30pm Deaconess 6:00pm YG - 6:00pm Advisory - 6:30	12. Troop 106 7:00pm	13. Ladies Team 6:30pm Community Choir 7:00pm	14. Adult Bible Study & Kids Club 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm	15. Girl Scouts 4:00pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm CCM Meeting 6:00pm College Group 7:00pm	16.	17.
18. Youth Group 6:00pm	19. Troop 106 7:00pm	20. Community Choir 7:00pm	21. Adult Bible Study & Kids Club 6:00pm	22. Girl Scouts 4:00pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm College 7:00pm	23. WCM 11:00-4:00pm Girl Scout Dance Decorate 3:00pm Girl Scout Dance 6:00pm	24.
25. Palm Sunday Easter Service @ Methodist Church 2:00pm YG - 6:00pm	26. Troop 106 7:00pm	27. Ladies Team 6:30pm Community Choir 7:00pm	28. Adult Bible 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm	29. GS - 4:00pm CS- 6:00pm CG - 7:00pm	30. Church of Peace Community Good Friday 7:00pm	31.

This past month, the youth loft has taken quite a transformation. The walls have been decorated with various posters, and banners that reflect a positive, encouraging atmosphere. I also created a drum pedal that allows me to lead worship with more energy and excitement. Brad Bates and Victor Robleto helped haul in a donated pool table from Matt Behnke. Also, the loft now has a wii system, a dartboard, life-sized chess board, and many other fun things to do. I look forward to seeing the group continue to grow as I participate in outside events, such as sports games, and Center City. The group has been learning a lot as we dig through the book of Romans and Matthew.

The youth group was able to join the First Christian Church at their Super Bowl party this year. Everyone seemed to have a good time, as we fellowshiped with other students, ate delicious food, played games, and watched football. We also had a blast at First Christian's free Christian rap concert. There were prizes, energy, and lights. God is good and is doing amazing things in the lives of the youth of Kewanee. Greater things have yet to come as we remain faithful to God's call to make disciples. Blessings.

-Youth Pastor Luke Kockler

Pastor's Paragraphs Continued...

that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;" (John 16:7-10, NKJV)

5 An Opportunity

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive." (Genesis 50:20, NKJV)

As of yet Sande says, "Many believers and their churches have not yet developed the ability to respond to conflict in a gospel-centered and biblically faithful manner. When Christians become peacemakers, they can turn conflict into an opportunity to strengthen relationships and make their lives a testimony to the love and power of Jesus".

Are you a person that breathes grace? It is what God call us to do and be. If there are many things that you say you can't. For me, my can't list is long, playing an instrument is first on my list, but all of us are called to "go and be reconciled" (Matt 5:24) to our

brothers and sisters, our friends and family, and the people in our churches and community. God calls us all to be biblical peacemakers, to allow His redemptive, transforming love to spill over into our relationships. So please go this month and breathe grace.

-Pastor Jon

Remember In Prayer



Margaret Donaldson,
 Peggy Schmelzer,
 Susannah Talbot,
 Millie Cagle, Linda Roller,
 Buck Fleming,
 Sherry Flack
 Penny Millsagle

SHUT-INS

Dorothy Hotchkiss,
 Rollie Omanson,
 Tom Pease,
 Evelyn Basham
 Gene & Romona Carlson

OUR LEADERSHIP

Senior Pastor Jon, Youth
 Pastor Luke Kockler,
 Pastor Dan,
 and Church Staff,

FBC Boards and
 Committees,
 Sunday School



A baptism service is scheduled for April 15th, 2018. if the Lord is speaking to your heart and you would like to be baptized in his name please see pastor jon.

MARCH BIRTHDAY'S

March 9th - Kevin Kull

March 21st - Tristan Kincaid

March 11th - Tom Baney

March 22nd - Joe Moon

March 12th - Natosha Hodge

March 26th - Taylor Osborne &
 Max Verscha

March 13th - Janet Martin

March 28th - Bev Moon

March 14th - Phil Kull

March 29th - CJ Carrasca

March 17th - Debbie Schaecher,
 Peggy Schmelzer &
 Kelly Verscha

March 31st - Karleigh Moon

March 20th - Brad Kelly



MISSION BOARD



Mission Moments...

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS - CONGRATULATIONS and a **BIG THANKS** to First Baptist Church for **EXCEEDING** our Food Pantry Collection Challenge for February!!! In **January**, we collected **49 items**. The **February** Challenge was 59 items! Instead, you **surpassed the challenge by 21** for a total collection of **70 items!!! Thank You** so much for your generosity. **HUNGER KNOWS NO SEASON...**

EXTRAS FOR EDUCATION CAMPAIGN - The E4E Campaign will be wrapping up with a March 11th deadline! Don't forget that last year, we collected enough to assemble a total of **9 boxes** to restock classroom supplies for the Kindergarten Classes in both the Kewanee School (**7 boxes**) and Wethersfield School (**2 boxes**). But our **CHALLENGE** to you for 2018 is to multiply your giving so that we can provide school supplies to the 1st grade classes too making a total of **16 boxes** of school supplies!!! See the announcement in the bulletin for the list of supplies needed.



LOVE PACKAGES DRIVE - **NOW** is the time to start looking around your house for "**Christian Materials**" lying around that's not being used that could be donated to this most commendable cause!!! We will be collecting through the months of March and April. Watch for more details, including a complete list of acceptable items, in upcoming March bulletins.

As always, your Mission Board invites and welcomes any and all suggestions for additional Mission projects to implement throughout this year. Contact us with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Your Servants in Christ,

Ruth Lang, Joan Alepra, Janet Martin, Marla Roller, & Dan Montooth



Hebrews 13:16 - And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.



Please join us for Easter Morning Breakfast down in the Fellowship Hall! Breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m. and will end by 8:30 a.m. There will be egg casserole, biscuits and gravy, pastries and fruit. Look for a sign up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in donating items!



Resurrection Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday March 31st, 2018

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (noon)

Ages: 1 year - 6th grade

Please meet in the Fellowship Hall for a light breakfast, a story, a craft, and the Easter Egg Hunt!



St. Patrick's Day History

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people. In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well known legend is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock. Did You Know?

More than 100 St. Patrick's Day parades are held across the United States; New York City and Boston are home to the largest celebrations.

Since around the ninth or 10th century, people in Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17. Interestingly, however, the first parade held to honor St. Patrick's Day took place not in Ireland but in the United States. On March 17, 1762, Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as with fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

As Irish immigrants spread out over the United States, other cities developed their own traditions. One of these is Chicago's annual dyeing of the Chicago River green. The practice started in 1962, when city pollution-control workers used dyes to trace illegal sewage discharges and realized that the green dye might provide a unique way to celebrate the holiday. That year, they released 100 pounds of green vegetable dye into the river—enough to keep it green for a week! Today, in order to minimize environmental damage, only 40 pounds of dye are used, and the river turns green for only several hours.

Today, people of all backgrounds celebrate St. Patrick's Day, especially throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in many other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore and Russia.

<http://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day/history-of-st-patricks-day>

St. Patrick's Day Humor

Why did the leprechaun climb over the rainbow?

To get to the other side!

How can you spot a jealous shamrock?

It will be green with envy!

Why did the leprechaun walk out of the house?

He wanted to sit on the paddy-o!

Why do leprechauns hate running?

They'd rather jig than jog!

Why are so many leprechauns florists?

They have green thumbs!

Why do leprechauns recycle?

They like to go green!

What's a leprechaun's favorite cereal?

Lucky Charms!

Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?

Regular rocks are too heavy!

Knock -knock. Who's there? Irish. Irish who?

Irish you a happy St. Patrick's Day!

<http://www.imom.com/20-fun-st-patricks-day-jokes-for-kids/#.WpSD7nxG2Uk>

