

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In last month's newsletter article I spoke to the fact that the search for a new pastor was underway. On Wednesday, May 2nd, we conducted a pre-call meeting under the guidance of District President John Guse and Circuit Pastor Steve Blumer. The meeting was designed to inform us of the Call procedures and also give us a forum to report to the congregation the results of the survey taken in April. Thirty-three surveys were returned and while many of them contained basically similar responses, there were a number of very interesting observations and perceptions expressed amongst our members. I would like to share some of those thoughts with those not able to attend the meeting as well as our winter members who have returned north.

In the area of strengths most surveys pointed out that we are a very friendly and warm congregation. We have dedicated members who go out of their way to communicate with one another and to make visitors feel welcome. Many saw our building and location as real pluses along with the God pleasing fact that we preach the true word of God. Terms like fellowship and unity were used often as was the thought that we do practice what we preach. Pastor Dale and all his contributions to Open Bible were recognized and applauded by a large number of responders and many of his qualities were mentioned as attributes sought in our next pastor.

There were also a number of needs expressed and/or areas that could be strengthened and will be taken under advisement by the Church Council. Most often mentioned was the need to do more in the area of outreach. It was listed as the number one area people would most like to see change to improve our congregation's service to its Savior as well as a definite area of strength in our new Pastor. A second area of concern was the perception that the Church Council needs to be more open to new ideas. People expressed concern that "things are always done that way" and we should at least consider the possibility of change. Other concerns expressed included our lack of youth, better

communication efforts and our need to pay off our debt.

The question was also asked where our congregation sees our church being in six years. Most felt that we will experience definite growth, with expanded facilities and ministry programs which may increase our need for a second weekly service.

At the conclusion of our pre-call meeting the Council met with both Pastors and was able to schedule a call meeting for Tuesday May 8. At that time, with God's guidance, Open Bible extended a call to Pastor Mark Schulz, who is currently serving at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bay City Michigan. Pastor Schulz has been at trinity for the past 23 years. As of this writing Pastor Schulz and his family continue to pray over our Call.

In the meantime, I ask that each one of us continue to pray and trust that God will answer our prayers according to his schedule. Our Lord promises that he hears and will answer every prayer brought to him in Jesus' name. With wisdom that often exceeds our understanding, he lays things out so that his eternal will may be done. He does things in his own good time and in his own wise way. His time and his way often may not coincide with our desires or expectations. As we pray time and time again in the prayer our Savior taught us to pray – Thy will be done!

God's blessings to all,
Greg Wendorf

FATHER'S DAY

Who remembers when there was no Father's Day on the calendar? We probably think of it as something that has been there forever. None of us will remember that Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, WA first invented Father's Day to honor her father on June 19, 1910. Attempts to make it a national holiday were resisted in congress for fear it would become commercialized. Finally, in 1966, President Lyndon B Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers,

designating the third Sunday of June as Father's Day. Six years later it was made a permanent national holiday.

Like Mother's Day it has become an occasion for family gatherings, cards and gifts, just the kind of commercialization Congress feared for 40 years.

However, it is appropriate to draw attention to fatherhood, not only to flatter dads, but also to consider the importance of fatherhood. We hear statistics all the time about the rising percentage of fatherless homes. Among African Americans unwed births are at 72%; Hispanics, 53% and the overall population of the U.S., 41%. This wasn't the case before the "liberation" movements liberated men from their responsibility to take care of the children they conceive. Recently, this outrageous situation was given a face when it was revealed that a 33 year-old man had fathered 30 children by 11 different women. In news reports he was complaining about the courts making him pay child support.

Needless to say this is not what God intended. And it isn't a joke! It is a tragedy of immense proportions. Each of those children is a person needing to know he or she is valued, and this is one of the most important things parental love and faithfulness accomplishes. Our civilization is literally coming apart because family duty is giving way to self-indulgence.

Biblical family values are the solution. According to those values men don't leave the mothers of their children stranded. They don't abandon their children. They show their love by self-sacrifice. If we could only make this one change there would be real hope for our society. Marriage and the family must be recovered. We need to speak of and defend this value. We need to support leaders who defend the family. And most of all, we need to implore God to be merciful and restore the family in American society.

Let Father's Day be a day to honor Dads! But let it be a day to prod us all to make it our urgent prayer for God to recover fatherhood as he intended it. New politicians won't save our country nearly as much as Christians who pray for the family. If we don't pray, soon there will be no Father's Day because society won't even remember what a father does. (The meaning of marriage has already been forgotten, hasn't it?) Perhaps, as another way to make a difference with our lives, we should seek opportunities to help some of the "abandoned" children.

Pastor Dale

WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

By Leslie Nelson



married.

A hearty welcome to Jackie Rousselo, who is now officially an active member at Open Bible, having transferred in May from Zion Lutheran Church in Monroe, Michigan, where she was baptized, confirmed and

Jackie was born and raised in Monroe, the daughter of a machine repairman at the Ford plant. Her mother worked at Cunningham's Drug Store. After completing Monroe High School, Jackie attended two years at a community college, and has had continuing education in her field, which is finance.

She remembers being at Woodland Beach with the Teen Club in 1955. She was 13. A 15-year-old named Ronald kissed her, and they danced to "True Love." He was the fellow she eventually married. By that time he was in the Air Force, and they spent 4 years in Maine. They had one daughter, Rhonda, and now Jackie has two grandchildren, Amanda and Timothy, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Jackie was elected Treasurer of Frenchtown Charter Township 7 times and was President of the Michigan Treasurer's Association. Ronald had a 29-year career as a machine repairman for Ford Motor Company at their plant in Woodhaven. The Rousselo's main home in Monroe was at Baycrest Beach, where they had their own boat and did lots of fishing, boating and swimming. Ronald died on November 24th, 1991.

Jackie has now sold her home up north and is living permanently here, in the village of Liberty Park, after being a snowbird for five years. Her favorite restaurant is still Weber's in Michigan, although she is trying to find a new favorite down here, hopefully one with good lobster. As for books, she really likes Dean Koontz and Tom Clancy, and enjoys reading about dragons. NCIS is one of her favorite TV series.

Jackie still likes to fish and is a member of the Saltwater Fishing Club in The Villages. In early May they were out in the Gulf and she caught a Speckled mackerel. They saw dolphins and a manatee. In addition to the fishing, she is a pretty good golfer and also likes to play mah-jongg, bridge (at Laurel Manor) or any card game. Quilting rounds out her list of activities. I'd say she is one busy lady. And, oh yes, Jackie swims 3 times a week!

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The May meeting of our Worship Committee was held on May 17. The committee met for the purpose of planning out the summer worship schedule. High priority will be given to helping with the retirement service for Pastor Dale and to also help with planning the installation service for our new pastor.

We again urge all of our worshipers to prepare themselves for worship by entering the sanctuary early for meditation, listening to the carillons and organ preludes and looking at the readings for the day. Our organists prepare for these preludes and these selections are chosen to fit the theme for the Sunday. The special music begins at 9:15 am.

If you are interested in joining our choir this fall please speak to Stacy Vance. The choir plans to reconvene on September 19 for their first practice. If the Lord has blessed you with vocal talents and an interest in choir please think about joining us. We meet each Wednesday evening for practice and sing once or twice a month and at major church festivals.

Our committee would like to thank our organists for their efforts in leading the singing and for their pre and post service music. The Altar Guild and Mrs. Stauske also deserve our thanks for making worship preparations and providing floral arrangements for our worship services.

We will not be meeting in July but will be available to help with planning special services when needed. Enjoy your summer and any vacations you might be taking. Remember God is always there in all our seasons. We will see you in church.

R. Brutlag
Worship Committee Chairman

Items for Your Calendar

Worship on Sundays at 9:30 am
Bible Study, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm
Council Meeting, Thursday, June 21, 10:00 am
Elders' Meeting, Thursday, June 28, 9:00 am
District Convention, June 11-13 at Clearwater, FL. Our delegate is Herb Schaefer. Also attending: Pastor Dale, Ron and Diane Brutlag, and Duane and Judy Anderson

WOMEN OF OPEN BIBLE

A group of ladies are going to lunch at the Cotillion Southern Café, Wildwood on Thursday, June 21. Meet at the church at 11:00 am. Sign up at the kitchen pass-through.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Gene & Bette McConkey – 3
John and Janis Liermann—5
Robert & Joyce Miller - 7
Greg & Carol Wendorf - 7
Art & Esther Hartwig - 8
Armand & Dianne Occhetti – 9
Jerry & Mary Brooks – 10
Ron & Diane Brutlag – 14
Ken & Elisabeth Wells – 15
Larry & Ardyce Fronk - 20
Walt & Bonnie Farnsworth - 25
Matt & Dorothy Draeger - 29
Bob & Carol Hinz – 29

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



June Murray - 1
Joanne Stuedemann - 7
Carol Stauske - 12
Ruth Niermeyer - 13
Ken Wells - 13
Tom Pawlowski - 15
Ardyce Fronk – 27
Mary Brooks - 29
Ted Hahm – 29

SERMON SERIES FOR JUNE

God's Will In Our Lives

June 10—"Look to the Lord, First, Last, and Always"
June 17—"Seek the Lord's Will"
June 24—"Accept the Potter's Molding Hand"