

FROM THE PRESIDENT

With Friendship Sunday, the season of Lent and Easter behind us for another year, one might think that it's simply back to business as usual at Open Bible. But that's not the case at all. We have a very big task in front of us in calling a new Pastor and that process is currently in full swing.

By now everyone has had or should have had an opportunity to fill out the congregational survey sent by e-mail in the middle of April. The content of these forms will be shared with District President Guse prior to our scheduled pre-call meeting on May 2. It will also be used by the Church Council to evaluate where we are as a governing body. What are our strengths and weaknesses? What areas can we improve on and what recommendations are forth coming from our members? Self-evaluation can be a very constructive experience as well as a real learning tool.

In keeping with the theme of self-evaluation, the yearlong work of the committee studying the original Plan of Ministry for Open Bible is nearing its completion. It, too, has been a good learning experience and we look to the future with great anticipation. Open Bible is growing and we feel we have planted the seeds to move forward. The path that we travel will be largely determined by the Council working together under God's direction with our new pastor.

What can you do to help at the present time? What does God have in store for us? I'm sure these are questions that may have crossed your mind. Please be assured that the Lord will make that clear to us in his own time and way. The calling process will follow its assigned path according to his will. For now we ask you to continue to pray and trust that the Lord has our best interest at heart. King Solomon, the writer of the book of Proverbs, tells us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding: in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight". (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

Time and time again, in scripture, we are reminded to bring our requests, our wishes, our desires, and our needs to him in prayer. Prayer is a privilege God gives to his children. It displays the faith in our heart. It shows him we are thankful to him and that we depend on him. It shows our trust in him to take care of everything. When we pray, we are placing ourselves into the strong, powerful, and gracious hands of God. Be assured that the Lord cherishes this and his gracious love will be there to guide and bless us in this new endeavor and for all time to come.

God's blessings to all,
Greg Wendorf

MOTHER'S DAY



Of all the secular holidays Mother's Day is among the most appropriate. Mothers have special privilege, special burdens and special joys. On May

13th we will celebrate Mothers and all women. On that day the men will be the "Coffee Hosts".

CELEBRATE EVERY DAY

You probably have seen the story about the person or group who sued to remove the official designation of *holiday* from the Christian holidays. The reason: it is unfair to atheists, who don't have a special holiday to celebrate. After hearing the attorney for the plaintiff present their case the judge banged his gavel and said "Case Dismissed." The judge explained that atheists do have a high, holy day of their own: "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no

God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned..."

This sounds like one of those stories that goes round and round on the internet, but it illustrates how empty our lives would be without Christ. By contrast we have something to celebrate every day. Every day is a new day of God's love and grace. Every day is a day to do something worthwhile in his name. Every day is a day to be thankful for. And on top of that there are extra special days like Christmas and Easter. No one but Christians have such glorious, high, holy days. We celebrate that our God came to rescue us. We celebrate that he won the victory over sin, death and hell. His resurrection restores life to a creation subject to death. How happy we can be!

We certainly struggle with both small and large problems in life. Yet, in our need we know we can reach out to a God who understands, cares and is able to help. Christ's life was one of great struggle against Satan and a world that resisted the light. We can't even imagine how much he suffered throughout his life, what kept him awake at night praying. Then for the one who created all people, to be shamed and rejected by those who were called to serve him, to be beaten almost to death and crucified! This was his path to glory and our reason to celebrate with deep feelings of thanksgiving and joy.

Throughout the Easter season remember to rejoice and celebrate every day. Every day is a day the Lord has made.

Pastor Dale

SPRING MUSICAL

The King of King's School children (35 in all) will be presenting their spring musical: "I Need a Summer Vacation" at Open Bible on Monday, May 14th at 11:30 am. The production will last about 30 minutes. Even though it is a Monday morning, let's get a crowd. Invite friends. They will enjoy it.

WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

By Leslie Nelson

This month we are featuring Lyndon Carrier, who comes to us from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. He was born in

La Crosse into a Christian family and attended Luther High in Onalaska, WI.



Although he has been living in The Villages for two years already, he just sold his Wisconsin home a few months ago. Lyndon is a widower. He and his wife, Marilyn, raised two daughters, both living and working in Chippewa Falls, and one son who is a mortgage broker in Minneapolis. Lyndon has one grandson.

He owned a pattern shop, building tooling for the foundry industry. At the age of 44 he suffered a heart attack and was forced to retire. Twelve years later he received the miracle of a new heart! But, sadly, two days later they learned that Marilyn had terminal cancer. (Lord, help us all to remember that our days, too, are numbered.)

Marilyn was a social worker, and after her passing Lyndon received many heartwarming letters from people all over the country about how she had changed their lives.

Lyndon likes all kinds of foods and restaurants, and enjoys watching the history Channel the most. His favorite activity is fishing, and by the time you read this he will be back from a fishing trip in the Keys. Then, in May, he will be taking another trip, to Wisconsin for his son's wedding. While there, he just might have to do a little salmon fishing on Lake Michigan.

Good fishing, Lyndon!

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee was very pleased to hear so many positive comments about the services that were held during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Much planning went into these services so that our members would receive the Gospel message in word and song. We thank our Pastor, choir director, the organists, altar guild, cleaners, ushers, food preparers and anyone else who helped with the services and fellowship. It was and is a real joy to be able to worship at Open Bible.

There is still some concern about the noise level that prohibits some of our members from entering the sanctuary early for meditation and preparation for worship. You will notice that the sanctuary doors are shut earlier and that the ushers are meeting people

outside these doors. This has quieted the sanctuary greatly. Let's respect those who like to prepare themselves for worship, meditate and listen to the carillons.

A special thank you needs to be extended to Stacy Vance for the fine work she has done with our choir this year. There is much more involved in getting the choir to sing on a given Sunday than you can image. Please let Stacy know you appreciate all her efforts. **We also need to thank Jeanette Kellam** for giving her time and talents as the choir accompanist. We all appreciate her work also.

We have finished updating our committee's guidelines and have presented them for final approval. Hopefully the Worship Committee is now all set to function permanently.

As our members leave for the summer months it is important that our full timers worship regularly and participate in the services. Continue to invite friends to worship with you throughout the summer. Blessings to all of our members!

CONCERTS FOR 2013

All who attended the Susan Ann Concert and the Wisconsin Lutheran College Choir Concert were impressed and moved. Although they were very different, both had an impact. Thank God for the success of the 2012 concerts! Their success gives us confidence to take the next step. We have two concerts scheduled for 2013: Stacy Vance (and Friends) will give a flute concert on February 17th and Timothy Moke (trumpet) will perform on March 3rd.

Almost all of us know Stacy and always welcome her flute playing at our services. She also directs our choir and arranges for lots of special music at our services. But did you know she is a graduate of Montana State University and taught in Port St. Joe, FL, Denton, MT and Florence, MT.



Timothy Moke is someone completely new to us. Here is information on his web site:

Timothy Moke began playing the cornet as a fifth grader in New Hope, Minnesota. He studied with many excellent trumpet teachers including his father Dr. David F. Moke,



Donald Spangler, Charles Schlueter, Dr. David Bladwin, Ronald Hasselmann, Manny Laureano and David Greenhoe.

Mr. Moke received music degrees from the University of Minnesota and the University of Iowa. After a four year engagement with the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Moke moved to Arizona where he currently works as a music educator and a freelance classical / sacred soloist.

He participated in the 2002 WELS Conference on Worship, Music and the Arts at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, as well as the July 2005 conference at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. Moke is a member of Calvary Lutheran Church WELS in Chandler, AZ.

Mr. Moke has several CDs. He records in Switzerland each year. Be sure to listen to him online at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwWlQOTo_Cw Then click on the 87 videos button at the top. Then click on the first one "Sleeper's Awake." This should begin to play 87 videos featuring Mr. Moke.

God has given us a building that is great for music and has blessed our efforts to hold concerts. In order that this might be encouraged and continued the Church Council established a Concert Fund. Anyone who wants to support concerts is welcome to make donations at any time. Even small donations are welcome and helpful.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

1. Our Open Bible quilters received \$200 from Thrivent for supplies and equipment.
2. The conference room will be used for Sunday School after the church service.
3. A church Work Day will be held Tuesday, May 1st at 8:30 am.
4. The men will be handling the fellowship on Mother's Day.
5. Funds have been transferred to get a better interest rate.
6. The Council resolved that we will not release our Directory or email list to any person or organization outside our church. However, in certain cases we will accept and transmit messages or newsletters to our email list. One such case is Calvary Academy Ministries. You can expect to receive their newsletter in the future.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Preparedness is essential during the hurricane season in Florida and your Open Bible family is here to help anyone who may be in need.

Our plan is available to provide a safe haven for folks living in homes not rated to withstand hurricane-force winds, or other types of violent storms. Even if you are just a single person and would prefer to be among friends. Also, during the aftermath of a storm, anyone who has sustained damage to their home.

Newer members of Open Bible may not be aware of this program and if so, please contact Dan Blaho (352-561-4840 or 770-312-6305) or Doug Hartshorn (352-259-4419 or 352-205-0046).

If you wish to be a host family or you may feel a need to evacuate your primary residence contact Dan or Doug in the next week or two in order for your name to be added to our list.

An updated version of the plan will be placed in everyone's mailbox by June 1st 2012, after contacts are made with any additional persons added to the list and/or new host volunteers.

Your servant in Christ,
Dan Blaho

WOMEN OF OPEN BIBLE

The women had a wonderful year so far with all of your support. A sincere thank you from all of us!

Joanne Stuedemann will be the acting President while I am up north from June through September. Have a wonderful summer everyone.

The Sunday morning Coffee Chairperson is now Joan Blaho. You can help out by signing up to be a hostess for a Sunday or two. Look for the signup sheet by the kitchen or speak to Joan.

The Women of Open Bible Officers will have a planning meeting on Oct. 8th at 1 p.m. at the church.

Our next meeting is still May 9th and we will decide if there is to be an outing in June. Mark your calendar.

Your Sister in Christ,
Marilyn Acklam, President

THANK YOU

How can I thank you adequately for the Birthday cake, and for the cards and gifts? I know each card was selected for its message and I read each one as if the message had been spoken in person by the giver. I can't tell you how much it meant and how much it means to have friends like you. Few Pastors have a congregation as thoughtful and supportive as you are. I regret we could not be here on the actual day of my 70th Birthday but our oldest son arranged to visit us and we are going to be with our other two sons and their families in Port St. Lucie.

Thank you again. God bless you!
Pastor Dale

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Fred & Loreli Aguda – 14
Russ & Ruth Niermeyer - 28

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Doris Schlicht - 2
Bill Gebhard - 5
Ron Brutlag – 9
James Pergola - 10
Dave Bliss - 23
Beverly Dickson –25
Stacy Vance – 27

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Meeting with Pres. Guse 6:30 pm	3 Council Mtg 10:00 am	4 QUILTING FOR MISSIONS 10:00 am	5
6 Bible Class 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am SS 10:45 am	7	8	9 Women of Open Bible 1:00 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm	10	11	12
13 Bible Class 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am SS 10:45 am	14 Children's Musical 11:30 am	15	16 Bible Study 5:00 pm	17 Worship Com 4:45 pm	18	19
20 Bible Class 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am SS 10:45 am	21	22	23 Bible Study 5:00 pm	24	25	26
27 Bible Class 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am	28	29	30 Bible Study 5:00 pm	31		