

THE MESSENGER

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

800 Seldon Rd., Iron River, MI 49935

906-265-4334

Website: www.fbcir.net

JANUARY 2008

Pastor John Fish

906-265-5252 Home

HAPPY NEW YEAR

-----2008-----

Happy Birthday/Happy Anniversary to:

Jan 3 Kurt & Lisa Sabol
4 Whitney Malkin
9 Victoria Poulos
9 Dawn Pisoni
16 Eunice Erickson
20 Roberta Lindbeck
23 Nathan Montgomery
24 Gary Pisoni
29 Rowdy Fish
30 Ron & Joan Hardy
30 Donna Kataja
30 Melissa Marcell

Mon. Jan. 21 12-5:30 pm Red Cross Blood Drive
at FBC. Refreshments

Mon. Jan. 21 , 6-7 p.m. Men's Fellowship
w/Ron Hardy

Mon. Jan. 21, 6 p.m. Ladies Ministry in Kitchen

Tues. Jan. 22, 10 a.m. Ladies Bible Study at Ann
Lovejoys ...208 Jefferson Ave. Lesson #7

Tues. Jan 22, 6 p.m. Pastor Mike's Bible Study

Wed. Jan. 23, Awana Sign up for Treats

Thurs. Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m. Marriage Enrichment
Class at Bucky & Jeanne Holm's

Fri. Jan 25, @ 5:30 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner
- Building Fundraiser .
6:30 Movie - "Amazing Grace"

Sat. Jan 26 CEF Conference at
Immanuel Baptist in Kingsford.

Sun. Jan. 27 Annual Meeting

"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:13,14

From The Messenger archives

2007 Year in Review at FBC

On Jan. 2, 2007 the nation commemorated the death of 86th president of the United States Gerald Ford, a resident of Grand Rapids, where he was buried.

In their Missionary Update newsletter, Tammy Dunseath told of the joys and challenges in Liberia. FBC has the Dunseath's on its financial support list.

The February issue featured a report of the 2006 annual meeting on Jan. 21. Elected were Richard Holm, vice chairman; Theresa Baumgartner, clerk; Lisa Holm (now Gasperini), treasurer; Debbie Fish, financial secretary.

Under the direction of Ron Hardy, the Men's Fellowship resumed its Monday night program with an average attendance of 14. A series entitled "History of FBC told in Museum Society Book Frames For The Future" got underway in February.

Messenger staffer Brian Kassa featured Pastor Mike Rucinski in "Meet the Flock" section. Dawn Pisoni reported the West Iron County Youth Basketball Program is grateful to have the use of FBC gym. It is the third year the school has used the church gym for practices. In the recipe corner, recipes for corn bread (Yolie Buhler) and Texas chili (Jackie Granskog, Rapid River), were submitted and printed.

Congratulations were extended in March to Richelle and Joseph Jochem of Iron River on the birth of Bradley Vincent on Feb. 13. Also, Rachel Erickson and Jeff Andreski declared their engagement to be followed by a June 2 wedding at FBC.

With the coming of spring, a poem entitled "Sap's Running" by Edna Jacques was printed in The Messenger.

In April, Youth Director Allen Smith submitted a report on "Fire Up 2007" held in Marquette March 30-April 1. Several FBC youths attended. The Encouragers went to the Iron County Medical Facility on March 28 to celebrate Attilio Carasoli's 92nd birthday.

In the "Church Blooper from Church Bulletin" noted: Tonight's sermon, "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practicing. Dennis Vissering was the featured member in "Profiles from the pew." Recounting what accomplishment he was the most proud of, Dennis said, "The successful delivery of my daughter in my pickup truck..."

Ida Osborne submitted an article "From Grief to Happiness." It featured the Osborne's son-in-law who died and went home to Glory at age 43 in 2004.

In his report at the April 29 quarter business meeting of FBC in the May Messenger, Long Range Planning Committee Chairman Ed Kruit said there are no plans for either a partial or full program to expand the church facility. Pastor John Fish reported Keller architect's and designers for a complete plan for a building-expansion design has an estimated cost of \$350,000 and \$400,00.

When asked her age in "Profiles from the pew" interview, Theresa Baumgartner said, "Older than dirt." FBC graduates on May 27 were Jaimie Halverson, Nathan Holm and Krystin Myers. Commemorating Memorial Day, "We remember Second Class Petty Officer Joseph Clark Schwedler, a Navy SEAL, 27 years old from Crystal Falls, who was mortally wounded on April 6 in Iraq.

The Baumgartner boys, twin sons of Jerome and Theresa Baumgartner, won

Division 2 Upper Peninsula State High School tennis championships on May 30 in Kingsford. Both juniors, each are repeat U.P. champions on the West Iron County tennis team. They are both on the WICHHS Honor Roll. Happy Father's Day was mentioned on a special page with several highlights commemorating Dad's.

Dennis Yackel, 58, of Gaastra, was in the "Profiles from the pew" spotlight in June. His favorite food is venison hamburger and fries.

In the August issue, a report of a special meeting on June 24 announced the congregation of FBC voted 57 in favor (unanimous for those in attendance), to pursue a loan/borrowing initiative to continue planning for a church expansion building program. There were four letters of opposition. At the July 15 quarterly business meeting, two representatives from Keller Architects/Design/Builders made a presentation regarding the proposed church expansion building program..

At a combination baptismal service and church picnic held July 22 at Lake Ottawa attended by approximately 110 persons, confessing their faith in Christ and going under the waters of baptism were Savanna Sandy, Rachel Andreski, Jeff Andreski, Sarah Suhm and Shenna Bobnock.

Debbie Fish was featured in the August edition "Profiles from the pew." Telling what has been the most embarrassing moment in your life, Debbie said, "I was shopping and slipped on a waxed floor, bounced back quickly, looked around to make sure no one saw me leaving the store. I notices some chuckling from some guys and found out they saw the whole thing go down on video."

In the November copy, a report at the quarterly business meeting headlined, "Church expansion program on hold." subsequent by an announcement by Pastor Fish and board chair Holm. Holm said Keller came in with an estimate of \$1.2 million for a proposed expansion plan.

Following the meeting, a potluck supper in the gym recognized Pastor John and wife Patti Fish commemorating Pastor Appreciation Day. Responding to a question in the November edition, tell something nobody knows about you in the "Profiles from the pew" feature, Shirley Rentschler said, "Too funny--then everyone would know."

An updated report from Lake Ellen Camp, Executive Director Garry Cropp said there were nearly 500 campers in 2007. FBC participates financially by sponsoring scholarships ;for youths attending summer camp along with a monthly budgeted contribution.

Messenger staffers reported a computer crash from lightning in October did not allow producing that edition.

There were several tidbits from the flock and upcoming events in the December edition, Mildred Bedard was hospitalized and recovering from heart problems at the Iron River Care Center; Jennifer Hall from Jamaica sent Christmas greetings and will receive mail at: Thompson Town, P.O. Clarendon, Jamaica, West Indies. Singers and musicians will participate in a Christmas Eve service.

Jeff Andreski was in the "Profile from the pew" spotlight in December. He said his family consists of: "one wife, two dogs and 12 chickens, all females. God is helping me."

FBC won first place in the Best Community entry "Snowflake Award" in the Holiday in Lights Parade in downtown Iron River in early December. Theme was, "Without Christ there is no Christmas." There were 45 units participating in the second annual parade.

BELIZE MISSION TRIP

Mark & Yolie Buhler will be leaving on their mission trip to Belize on Fri. Jan. 25, 2008. They hope that you share their hearts desire to serve and help others less fortunate than us. With the help of God, through their efforts and ours, they will make a difference in the lives of those who struggle in a life much more difficult than our own.

Those who wish to commit to joining their ministry team by financially or prayerfully supporting them, make checks payable to FBC/Mission Trip.

They wish to thank all of their friends and church family for their prayers and donations that are making this mission trip possible.

FAMILY LIFE PRESENTS WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

The leader in marriage conferences for over 30 years Family Life presents
Weekend To Remember

Feb. 29-Mar.2 Appleton, WI Register with the group and save \$80 per couple!

To join the group contact: Mark & Yolie Buhler or Nathan & Laura Montgomery

A lifetime of great memories begins with a "Weekend to Remember".

An Experience You'll Never Forget. Group Sign-Up Deadline is Feb. 10.

BUILDING FUNDRAISER

A spaghetti dinner of spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread and dessert will be held Fri. Jan. 25 at the church. Dinner will be served from 5:30 - 6:30 pm At 6:30 the movie "Amazing Grace" will be shown in the sanctuary. Donations will be taken to cover the cost of the meal and to raise funds for our building project. R.S.V.P. by Jan. 24 by calling Jeannie Holm @265-9265, Theresa Baumgartner @265-9348 or the church @265-4334. Come! Enjoy a great meal, share great fellowship, and help build our new sanctuary!

LOVING WELL RETREAT with BETH MOORE

Come and join us for a fun-filled day as we learn how to love well. Through video we will hear from best-selling author and teacher Beth Moore, enjoy fun and fellowship with other women, laugh, cry, eat, make new friends, and enjoy old friends. Through the Word of God we will learn better how to love those who we find difficult to have close relationships with. The date is Sat. Feb. 9, at FBC. Sign in begins at 9:30 a.m. and start time is 10 a.m. The cost is \$5 which includes lunch. Bring your Bible and a notebook. R.S.V.P. Jeannie Holm @265-9265 or Theresa Baumgartner @265-9348.

Sandra Lynn Dorsch, daughter-in-law of Rich and Alice Berg, friends and summer residents of Fire Lake, went Home with the Lord on December 19, 2007 suddenly after 4 months of treatments for lung cancer. She was born January 3, 1959 and married Mike on Oct. 5, 1979. They raised 3 children, Matthew, Aubrey, and Kaitlyn. Our sympathies, prayers and love are extended to Rich, Alice, Mike and family.

MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below
With tiny lights like Heaven's stars reflection on the snow

The night is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this Year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare
With the Christmas choir here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me: I see the pain inside your heart
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.

So, be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I send you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above
I send you each a memory of my undying love.

After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold.
It was always more important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do
For I can't count the blessings or love He has for each of you.

So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.
Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

Love, Sandy

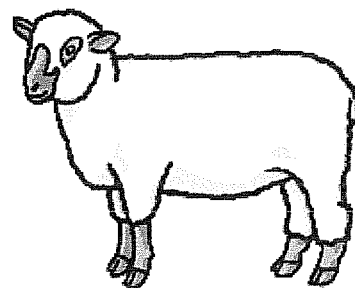
Submitted by Dolores Slivensky

First Edition of FBC COOKBOOK "Recipes from the FLOCK"

Approximately \$700 in sales has been made from the cookbooks that were completed in December in time for Christmas giving. Special thanks to Victoria Polous; editor/designer, Shirley Rentschler, typist and Theresa Baumgartner composing for the endless hours it took until the completion.

The cookbooks are on sale for \$10 plus -----for shipping and handling. Orders can be made by calling the church at 906-265-4334 or by mail FBC, 800 Selden Rd. Iron River, MI 49935. Proceeds go into the building fund. Make checks payable to FBC.

Many recipes are from former members of FBC whom have gone on to be with the Lord in eternity They are favorites that will be passed down to future generations. "Every home should have one" as Arlen Sunn suggested.



Tidbits from the Flock

Parishioners from FBC rang in the New Year at the home of Tony and Melody Fittante. Young and old alike joined in the festivities.

Historical note: The stately 5 bedroom home was built in 1912 for Mr & Mrs Fisher, a local attorney. In the 1950's, Lawrence and Janet Lindstrom owned the home. Lawrence was the brother of Florence Ask. Lionel and Florence Ask celebrated their Wedding Day at a reception dinner there. Janet is a resident at the Iron Co. Medicare Facility. Lionel is a resident at the Iron River Care Center.

Bob & Dolores Slivensky left January 16th for San Antonio, TX to visit their daughter Julie, Chris, Jordan & Joy. They will spend the month of February in Seagrove Beach, FL. They can be reached at 1-850-231-2554. Please pray for traveling mercies.

Profiles from the pew

Name: Mike Baumgartner

Age: 18 Years

Where were you born: Iron Mountain, MI

Where do you live: Iron River

Where do you go to school: West Iron Co. High School

What is your favorite subject: Chemistry

Do you have a family: Yes

Do you like to read: Not Much **Favorite book:** To Kill A Mockingbird

What is your favorite pastime: Football Games

What is your favorite football, baseball and basketball teams:
Pro's. San Diego Chargers, New York Yankees, Toronto Raptors

How far have you traveled from home:
Washington D.C.

What is your favorite food: Ravioli

What is the fondest memory of your childhood: Voting for the first time for
Presidential Primaries

If you had the courage, what would you do: Skydive

What is your favorite book in the Bible: Revelation

What do you like best about a church service: Music

What season of the year do you like best: Fall **Why:** Colorful Leaves & Golf

Tell something nobody knows about you:
I greatly dislike the Green Bay Packers

What accomplishment are you the most proud of: All-State Honorable Mention in
Tennis

If you were doing this interview, what would you ask: How old my Mother is?

Profiles from the pew

Name: Matthew Baumgartner

Age: 18 Years

Where were you born: Iron Mountain, MI

Where do you live: Iron River

Where do you go to school: West Iron Co. High School

What is your favorite subject: Business

Do you have a family: Yes

Do you like to read: No **Favorite book:** The Great Gatsby

What is your favorite pastime: Golf & Tennis

What is your favorite football, baseball and basketball teams:
Atlanta Falcons, Boston Redsox, Phoenix Suns

How far have you traveled from home:
Washington D.C.

What is your favorite food: Kalamari

What is the fondest memory of your childhood: Going to the lake with my family.

If you had the courage, what would you do: Scuba Dive

What is your favorite book in the Bible: Matthew

What do you like best about a church service: Music

What season of the year do you like best: Spring **Why:** Golf & Tennis

Tell something nobody knows about you: I collect Bobbleheads

What accomplishment are you the most proud of: Being selected to the division 4 all-state tennis team twice.

If you were doing this interview, what would you ask: What is your favorite item at the Pasty Corner?