

East Balsam Beacon

October, November,
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Thanks to Cheryl Volgren
and Sarah Bowers
for the pictures

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For this page, which was called Pastor's Corner, I am using scripture and thoughts Roger Peterson used for a devotional at a Wednesday night prayer meeting.

Joan Michaelson

GOD USES BOTH— Happenings that we call good or bad— God uses BOTH!

Ecclesiastes 11:6

In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

Matthew 13:24-30 The Parable of the Weeds

“He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field,

but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.

So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.

And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’

He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’

But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.

Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.””

God uses the difficult things with the good things. (BOTH)

Mark 14:66-72 Peter Denies Jesus

And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.”

But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed.

And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.”

But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”

But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.”

And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

Matthew 16:18 Peter is the rock

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

God uses both in Peter’s life. (Both)

Mark 14:43-45 Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.”

And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” And he kissed him.

John 19:26 John the Disciple

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”

Both Judas and John were Jesus’ disciples.

One was used in the plan that brought Jesus to the cross for our salvation. The other one served the Lord. Jesus used BOTH.

COMING UP

Vacation Bible School—2020

Deena Hall is requesting decorating items for the 2020 VBS. The theme is “Mystery Island” and they want “Anything Beachy” such as umbrellas, fish décor, bright-colored tablecloths, tiki torches, beach chairs, flip flops, swim goggles and fins, pool noodles, pool floats and tubes, etc. Label your contributions VBS 2020 and give to Deena.

Operation Christmas Child

Packing Boxes

Cheryl Volgren reported that last year we packed 225 boxes so this year's goal is 226. **NOTE:** On Sunday, October 20th, Cheryl said that Samaritan's Purse is sending us another 50 boxes. Anyone who wishes to help pack boxes should come to church on Saturday, November 9th at 9:30 a.m. The boxes will be sent out on November 17th. Please contact Cheryl if you have any questions—715-268-2129 or scvolgren@amerytel.net.

You can go online at www.samaritanspurse.org for details on what to pack or what not to pack. Cheryl says we do NOT need more toothbrushes, crayons, or pencils. We DO NEED money donations for purchasing items and shipping costs. A donation of \$9 per box is critical to cover shipping from Samaritan's Purse to other lands.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Office Administrative Assistant/Youth Group Leader

Sarah Bowers has been hired for two jobs—Office Administrative Assistant and Youth Group Leader. Office hours will be Monday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m.

The Youth will meet on Wednesday evenings at 5:45.

Ignite Youth Group

The youth of East Balsam Baptist have always been an integral part of our church family, and after a few years of its absence, we have once again started up a weekly youth group meeting.

The purpose of our youth group, which we are calling Ignite Youth Group after our church's tagline (To ignite a passion for God and a love for people), is to: encourage our youth to grow in biblical WISDOM, to WALK out their purpose in life, to be a WITNESS to their communities, to WELCOME one another in love, and to WORSHIP the Lord in all they do. The first five weeks of group has been/will be focused on diving deeper into each of these five purposes of our youth group, ending with a worship night on October 30th led by Anna O'Brien.

The structure of our nights are the same every week. Each night the youth join for dinner together followed by a time of worship, then diving into scripture as a large group, and finally splitting off into small groups. Our small groups are led by Doug Schmidt (middle school boys), Travis Bowers (high school boys), Anna O'Brien (middle school girls), and Grace Mathewson (high school girls). During the small group portion the youth have a chance to dig deeper into what we discussed as a large group and connect with one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Each week the youth walk away with a practical tool to help them dive into scripture on their own as well as a challenge of some sort to be the hands and feet of Christ. Two of the tools we've studied so far have been learning how to SOAP scripture (a tool to help you process a piece of scripture) and a booklet we went over teaching them how to share the gospel. From sharing the gospel with someone to picking one act of love that Jesus was recorded as doing in the gospels and putting that into action in their own life, the youth are loving the challenges and feeling the excitement of being an active part of the kingdom of God.

We look forward to the months to come as a group when we will dive into what it looks like to live from our God-given identity, serve at Ruby's Pantry before Thanksgiving and enjoying a Christmas Dinner together as we celebrate this beautiful time of year.

It has been a beautiful visual of the heart of God as we join together each week. I simply cannot wait to see what the Lord has in store for this time.

Thank you for your prayers and support,

Sarah Bowers
Youth Group Leader



Youth promoted

Three young people received a Bible on August 25th during the worship service as they were promoted from attending Children's Church to staying in the sanctuary. They were Tya Volgren, Maggie Cox, and Marcus Majeske.



Options for Women—Tri-County

A good time was had by all on Sunday, October 13th, at the beautiful Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp in Amery. It was the fundraising banquet for Options for Women TRI-COUNTY. John and Rhonda Miller and Lisa Lundquist from EBBC attended this event.

Karen Mickelson, Director of Options for Women, shared her challenging testimony of her own abortion at the age of 17. She also shared how God intervened in her life to prepare her for the role she plays today. Karen highlighted one of her favorite verses in Romans 5:8, *“But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

The evening was a success with a little over \$15,000 raised through a silent auction, and a cake and live auction. These donations will be used to continue to promote the work of the center and provide for every individual who seeks their services. Options for Women/TRI-COUNTY does not receive any funding except for generous donations from individuals and churches.

Submitted by Lisa Lundquist

Men's Bible Study

The men meet for Bible study each Saturday morning at 7:00. If you have questions, contact Craig Peters, 715-222-0564, or peterscraig@gmail.com

Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

A weekly prayer meeting is being held at the home of David and Joan Michaelson, 309 Warren Street, Balsam Lake. We are seeking God's leading in this time of transition as well as praying for the needs of people in our congregation. You are invited to attend.

115th Anniversary

Our church was formed on October 9, 1904. An updated history has been printed. If you haven't received a copy and would like one, please contact Joan Michaelson at 715-405-4055 or dgm@lakeland.ws

Good News Club

The Good News Club meets at Unity School each Wednesday, when school is in session, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. This is for children in grades kindergarten through grade five.

Claudine Brown (715-857-5312) is still looking for someone to lead the Unity Good News Club.

Women's Fall Rally

Several women attended the Fall Rally at Trade Lake Baptist Church on October 8th. The speaker was Dr. Pat, a lady who has traveled to the Mideast for many years. She supports and encourages Christians in the Persecuted Church.

Storm Damage

The storm that struck our area in July caused some damage to the church. The church shingles had to be replaced. Thankfully, the insurance covered the cost except for \$500 deductible.

The steeple was blown off; a new steeple has been ordered, and it will also be covered by insurance.

The playground equipment (swings, slides, etc.) were damaged and will be replaced next Spring.

The garage door was blown in but fixed enough to continue to use.



Ditch Cleaning

The semi-annual Ditch Cleaning was done on Sunday, October 20th, following the worship service. It covers the area from the curve north of church to the curve about a mile south of church. Lunch was served when the job was completed.

Thank you, Volunteers.

MISSIONS

Bruce & Candice Beatham—Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico

A recent correspondence from Bruce and Candice says that their family is spread out in Mexico, Ohio, Texas and Japan, but God's calling in each one's life is strong. "We are humbled and grateful to our great God!"

They are getting the book of Mark ready to publish (hopefully very soon) and Luke, John and Acts are close behind.

Continue to pray for them as they work to get God's Word published for the Mixtec people in southern Mexico.

John & Lori De Cleene—Mobilization Associates, Converge

From "I hate this part" to "This -is- ministry!" Mark, a current Converge appointee, praises the Lord for the many ministry opportunities he's had while sharing his vision for Asia. He's thankful for an older man struggling with memory being very lucid as they held hands to pray after sharing. Mark is also humbled and blessed by older people promising to pray since they're not able to give. His support is continually growing. Mark is just one example of the more than 50 Converge appointees.

Lori and I are blessed to help them learn how to share, follow their reading requirements, take Perspectives on World Missions, say good-bye to family and many other aspects of preparing to serve overseas full-time. Please pray for continued wisdom for Lori and me (<https://converge.org/missionary/john-lori-decleene>).

Also, please pray as Converge International Missions is seeking a new Mobilization Director to serve under Ivan Veldhuizen (the former director resigned last June).

Thank you so very, very much for continued partnership - we're praying for you as you grow in the Lord and continue to reach your community and reach around the world through many ministries!

Serving together with you...John

Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher—Wycliffe Bible Translators formerly in Papua New Guinea

Steve & Carol Jean left Papua New Guinea on September 6th to begin their relocation to Florida. They had good closure (both in practical matters and in meaningful good-byes) after living there for most of the past 27 years.

On the way home, Steve attended a conference in Germany for the newly-formed Global Consultant Pool, which he will be part of. The GCP will coordinate sharing of translation consultants throughout the world. Since Steve's travel expenses for the conference were covered, they did some sightseeing in Ireland and England on the way to the conference.

Even though they are not actively working with the Bariai people, they request continued prayer for them. They have contact with some of their Bariai friends and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in their lives.

After a brief stay at their new home in Lakeland, Florida, they flew to Wisconsin for a family get together and to pack their belongings in a U-Box that is scheduled to be delivered in Florida on November 2nd.

They will concentrate on raising more financial support because of the cost of living in the U.S.

They live about a 30-minute drive from Erin, Mark and Granddaughter Eowyn, and will be nearby to welcome a grandson in January.

Steve & Rhonda Schwarze—Faith Academy, Manila, Philippines



Steve and Rhonda spoke at EBBC on September 1st. Steve told about their work in the Philippines for the past 35 years. They are not returning to the Philippines because Rhonda had an ulcer in her cornea and the doctor advised her to not return to the Philippines. They were also saying Thank You and Good-bye to supporters at EBBC.

Rhonda had commented that the ladies of EBBC had given them a quilt many years ago and it was worn out. Our team of quilters presented them with another quilt.

Gil & Norene Zinke—Training Leaders International (TLI)

Traveling in some countries isn't always pleasant, but Gil and his fellow teachers are thankful for other blessings. I quote from a recent letter:

“My room has many roaches. However, this hotel seems to have much better internet than we had in Shashemene or Hawassa, and hopefully fewer power outages too.”

On October 19th, Gil taught eight hours solo to begin the Intro to Missions course that he would teach each evening the coming week. The first day went well, but Gil asked for prayer as he felt “unprepared and inadequate.”

On the 23rd Gil wrote that he had realized there was “a great outpouring of prayer to God and encouragement to me. Thank you! As a result, God sustained me through a full day of teaching on Saturday.” He had gotten nine hours of sleep three nights in a row and was refreshed.

Three things were planned for the 23rd but none of them happened because there was a security issue that necessitated cancelling class. Roads into Addis Ababa from the south were closed and security checkpoints set up. An activist who had lived in the USA had come back to Eithiopia to stir up the Oromo tribe against the national government. Roads were closed in an effort to arrest him.

As you can see, our prayers are very important to our missionaries.

East Balsam Baptist Church

1816 – 108th Street

Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Sunday Worship – 9:00 A.M.

9:30 A.M. – Children's Church

11:00 A.M. – Adult Sunday School class

Tuesday – Women's Bible Study – 9:00 A.M.

Other meetings and activities announced in the bulletin.

Send Prayer Chain requests to east.balsam.baptist.church@gmail.com,

or contact Val Rowe at 715-268-7424 or

Joan Michaelson at 715-405-4055