



# Whiting Community Baptist Church Baptist Light

December 2014

On the Web: [www.whitingcommunitychurch.org](http://www.whitingcommunitychurch.org)

## **Towards Accountability: Overcoming Fear and Confessing Pride**

Before sin...this was Adam and Eve.

*"Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."* -Genesis 2:25

After sin...this was Adam and Eve.

*"Adam answered, 'I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.'"*  
-Genesis 3:10

**When we sin our knee-jerk reaction, like Adam and Eve, is to hide.**

Sin damages

our vertical relationship with God,  
and our horizontal relationships with one another.

How does *fear* keep you from letting a few trusted others know the real you?

How does *pride* keep you from letting a few trusted others know the real you?

When you hear the word *accountability*, what sort of emotions rise within you? Why is this?

Deep Christian friendship means trusting a few people enough, whereby we allow them a voice to instruct us, because we know they genuinely care for us.

**When we sin our knee-jerk reaction like Adam and Eve is to hide.  
But when we understand the gospel's implications,  
we realize that accountability  
grown organically out of the soil of caring friendship is a good thing,  
and we no longer have to hide.**

Pursuing God Together,  
Pastor Nick

## OCTOBER FINANCIALS

Our 2014 General Fund Approved Budget is \$77,105.00  
YTD general fund received \$64,985.86  
YTD general fund expenses \$58,928.73

Copies of Pledge Sheets and proposed 2015 Forecast Budget are available in the front entrance at church.

## Hark, the Angel Sang Off Key!

Hark can't sing in the same key as the angel choir and may not be allowed to sing with them to announce Jesus's birth. Join us for the worship service on Sunday, December 21st and learn how she gets back in tune with God and the choir.

## OPEN MINISTRY LEADER POSITIONS

We are looking to fill the worship ministry leader and communications ministry leader positions. Contact Pastor Nick if you think this might be a good fit for you.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

All children, youth and young adults are invited to be a part of this year's program. Practices are set for Wednesdays, Dec 3rd and 17th during Youth Group from 6:30-8, and Saturday mornings, Dec. 13th and 20th from 9:30-11. The younger children are also learning the songs during CEF. Other practices will be set for certain characters to rehearse certain scenes. If interested, talk to Holly Robinson. The Voices of Praise and Flute Choir will also be taking part. If you would like to join Voices of Praise just for the holiday season, come to practice at 8:30 on Sundays, or talk to Holly Robinson.

## VBS 2015 Volunteer Meeting Tuesday, January 6, 6:30-7:30pm.

At the August governing body meeting, we evaluated VBS 2014, and charted a new course to pursue for VBS 2015.

### Below is the direction WCBC will take for VBS 2015:

#### A) **Involve the parent(s).**

What happens to a child's growth in the Christian faith after VBS is over? Is discipleship continued by the parent(s) in the home after a child attends VBS for one week? The short answer to this question is, "we don't know." Producing lifelong followers of God is our mission. Therefore, instead of an intense burst of child only discipleship, we will ask parent(s) to attend VBS with their child. VBS 2015 will be family oriented. Although we can never be assured discipleship is continued after VBS ends, we do know that building a relationship and equipping the parents for discipleship in the home is immensely valuable in building lifelong disciples, and should not be overlooked in our VBS philosophy.

#### B) **Not every night.**

VBS 2014 was a tightly packed Sunday through Thursday schedule, 5:30-8:00pm in the evenings. What structural model provides us the best chance children will think about Christianity throughout the entire summer? It was decided a stretched out series of dates, a weekly or bi-weekly model, instead of an everyday compact model is worth trying.

#### C) **Length each night.**

VBS 2014 was 2.5 hours each night for the children. Often, more than 2.5 hours were asked of adult volunteers, some of whom hold jobs of 50+ hours a week. Therefore, this prompted us to ask a series of questions related to the attention span of children, along with what is healthy to ask of adult volunteers that we want to see maintain a healthy work/rest balance. VBS 2015 will last 1.5 hours each night.

#### D) **Three elements.**

How will we break down the 1.5 hours we are with the students and parents? There will be three elements: meal time, Bible time, and activity time. Each will last approximately thirty minutes.

#### E) **Financial support.**

What amount of financial backing is respectful and appropriate to ask of our congregation to support VBS? Our goal is to raise an offering of \$200 to cover expenses.

If you see merit in this approach to VBS, and might be interested in volunteering for VBS 2015, please plan on attending an informational meeting **Tuesday, January 6, 6:30-7:30pm**. If you have questions or cannot make this meeting, contact me, Pastor Nick.

## **ANNUAL REPORT ARTICLES DUE SOON!!**

All ministry leaders, committee leaders, pastor, moderator, & treasurer need to submit a report that recaps 2014 for inclusion in the annual report. All articles should be given to Lori Bowers no later than January 4, 2015. Electronic submissions are preferred. You can send to Lori's e-mail: lbowers@new.rr.com. Thank you.

## **TREE FARM**

The thinning at the tree farm will be taking place very soon (First/Second week of December). Just a reminder that if you are wanting to see the process in person, please contact Henry Rose, Brad Riley, or Dave/Donna Mentink.

Opening weekend of the gun deer season was very abnormal this year at the tree farm. There were only a hand full of deer seen during the weekend by a total of 6 hunters, typically there are numerous deer seen by everyone. One buck was taken Saturday with nothing taken on Sunday.

With the recent snow, the next few weekends would be a great time to take a stroll through the property on foot. The snow makes for a beautiful scenic walk (just be sure to check ahead of time that there is no one hunting). As always, if you have ideas for how we can better use the tree farm, please drop a note in the tree farm mail slot.

## **WHO'S WHO IN THE PEWS**

This month let's visit with our shut-ins.

Augie & Ester Bratz live in their own home and love visitors. They live at 1132 Elsie St., Appleton; phone ahead at 734-3301.

Lois Harrington resides at Brewster Village, Appleton; the facility's main phone number is 832-5400.

Dorothy Hoks has a lovely apartment at 2600 S. Heritage Woods Drive, Apt. 235, Appleton; phone 739-8979.

Elaine Bastian resides at Manor Care room 164, phone 225-5845. She loves visitors.

Margaret Huff lives in her own home at 150 Jackson St., Neenah; call first 725-2020.

Beverly Strong is now residing at Island Shores room 313; phone 215-0425. An encouraging call will help make her move easier.

Myrna Lopas lives in her own home at 2276 Henry St., Neenah; call her and say hi 729-1597.

Nancy Elwood is Bob's wife and lives at a care facility in Oshkosh at 1118 Murdock St.; phone 479-6577.

With the holidays so close, we should remember all these friends who cannot be as involved as they once were.

God Bless ~Mae Lichtwald

## **DECEMBER MISSION-RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING**

Since 1935, American Baptists have contributed to special offerings taken up in their church for ABC retired ministers and missionaries and their widowed spouses. In 1977, ABC USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering to extend the long tradition of expressing thankfulness to those who have served.

This offering is a tangible way the American Baptist family demonstrates their appreciation for the commitment, service and spiritual guidance of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses.

The offering supports those who have dedicated their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in times of need and a thank you check at the end of the year. This offering continues to serve as a rich tradition for ABC congregations and be an inspiration for so many who have served with gladness

**DONATIONS NEEDED**

Donations of juice and coffee are requested for fellowship after worship on Sundays. Any flavor or size container of juice or coffee is greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed on the table in the kitchen. Please mark that it is for fellowship. Thanks!!

**NEENAH DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP**

6pm every Tuesday

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1140 Tullar Road, Neenah

Please note that anyone interested should contact Laurie VanDoorn, CPP, 920.470.7065 (cell) first before attending. Daycare is provided.

Whiting Community Baptist Church  
1020 Tullar Road  
Neenah, WI 54956

**CHURCH USAGE FORM**

A property usage form will now be available when you would like to request use of the building. Forms will be available on the bulletin board and soon will be available on the church website.

Anyone wishing to submit an article to the Baptist Light may contact Barb Moravec. Electronic articles are appreciated; Word articles are preferred. Send articles to [barb\\_moravec@yahoo.com](mailto:barb_moravec@yahoo.com). Please have articles to her by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to allow time to print by the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.