

February 2005

Good + News

a publication of Brown Corners UB Church of Clare

5540 S. Clare Ave. • Clare, Michigan 48617-9496

...shout from the mountaintops!

Need Some Insight?

Introducing
A New Ministry
Under the Care of Dave Luther

What an awesome blessing to be in the center of God's will for your life. This journey began in Arlene and Jim Yost's Sunday school class about pursuing our destiny. It involved finding and acting on our passions. Through God's revelation and guidance I have entered pastoral ministry, specializing in counseling.

Looking back over my life, I can see how God has been preparing me for this calling. Many of my life experiences along with actual counseling training have been preparing me to be His useful instrument. My training includes: American Association of Christian Counselor's (AACC) beginning and advanced Caring for People God's Way programs, Biblical Counseling Training at the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors (NANC) training site in LaFayette, IN, and several classes at Huntington College. This past summer I received a specialized minister's license in counseling from the United Brethren in Christ Church. I praise God for His help and guidance, and all of you who have been supporting me with prayer and encouragement.

During my training, which I will continue to upgrade, I have been blessed to have God work through me to help different members of our church family. My vision is to see this ministry grow to be useful to the entire community. God is already raising up and training others to help counsel those in need. We want to come along side those who are in tribulation and comfort them as it says in II Corinthians 1:3-5.

God has called each of us to grow and mature in our spirituality, becoming more Christ-like. Many times we can get stuck or sidetracked during our journey. It is during these times that we all can benefit from insight (counseling)

to help get us back on the path pleasing to God. God never intended us to make this journey alone.

In many areas we can be proactive and be better prepared to head off attacks to our spiritual progress. I hope to conduct classes to help prepare us for these tribulations and help us to persevere through them. For example, premarital counseling is now available to all our couples interested in marriage. In February we hope to encourage married couples to have a marriage checkup. Later this fall we hope to have another session of Growing Kids God's Way.

If you are interested in knowing more about this Insight Ministry, or would like to schedule a meeting, call me at 386-3640 or contact me through the church.

Good Friday Service

Once again we are teaming with the Baptist Church on the Good Friday service. This year's service will reflect the life and death of Christ through song, reading, and scripture.

Anyone wanting to sing in this special Good Friday service should try to be at the first practice on February 6th. We will be practicing at the Baptist Church on Sunday evenings at 7:30pm until Good Friday. If you are involved in ALPHA you can be late and still sing.

I hope to have the songbooks and practice CD's for soprano, alto, tenor, bass, before the 6th. Please let me know if you are interested in singing.

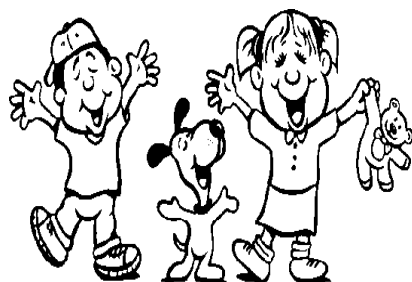
In the past, this partnership has been a real blessing to the singers. It's a time of great fellowship and what an amazing sound to offer to our Lord and Savior!



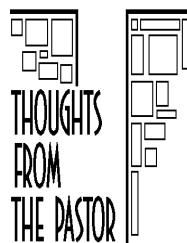
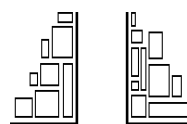
Cindy Luther
386-3640

Children's Ministry News

The Children's Ministry Team will meet February 1st at 7:00 PM at the church. We will be discussing the year events especially the Egg Hunt and Vacation Bible School. If you are interested in helping in any event, have ideas or suggestions to share that will enable us to reach the children for Jesus, or you just want to learn more about the Children's Ministry you are very much welcomed and encouraged to attend this meeting. You do not need to be a current teacher or helper in Junior Church, Pioneer club to attend this meeting.



Leota Farrell
Children's Ministry Coordinator



Transition. It's an interesting word. It means change, and often indicates progress from one stage to another. It applies to many areas of life, government, business, and family. As I write this, it is Inauguration Day for President Bush. It marks the change from his

first term to his second term of office. Families go through transitions which take many shapes. A new baby, a move, a divorce, an empty nest, all are transitions.

In our context, the church, there are many transitions. Some are welcome and some are resisted. Some are drastic and some are minor. Some of the transitions we have experienced here have to do with growth in attendance, some in buildings, some in infrastructure, some in philosophy. In the book that I have referred to before, *One Size Doesn't Fit All*, the author, Gary McIntosh uses the terms **Relational** and **Rigorous** to describe the transition that must take place in the mindset of a church in order for it to minister effectively to the wider community.

Relational churches typically indicate an inward look. A church will look at its members and their comfort as most important. The focus is inward. How are we doing? Are we having a good time? Are we enjoying ourselves? Are we comfortable?

To quote McIntosh,

"In a relational community a group consciousness or spirit defines the individuals. It provides a framework of values, beliefs, and commitments against which the members measure their lives...The group determines its identity from its past, which is carried on by tradition with a cer-

Continued on page 3...

who do not know Christ, while *encouraging* one another

Wild Kingdom exists to equip students to reach those

WILD KINGDOM

Junior High

Sunday Evenings

5:30-6:30PM Game Room

6:30-7:30PM In the Jungle

Wednesday Evenings

6:00-7:00 PM Bible Study

7:00-8:00 PM Quiz Team Practice

Senior High

Sunday Evenings

6:45-7:45PM Game Room

7:45-9:00PM In the Jungle

Monday Evenings

7:00-10:00 PM in the Jungle

Wednesday Evenings

7:00-8:00 PM Quiz Team Practice

Jr. High
Party!

"Do you
have the
guts?"

Feb. 12th
from 6:00-9:00 PM

Guys bring pop,
girls bring a snack

as we exalt Christ and seek opportunities to serve others.

Lay Ministry Report



Many CSI Groups (Community Special Interest Groups) begin meeting the week of February 7th. It is not too late to join a CSI group or a study group. Brochures with our groups, their study or activity and leaders and contact numbers are available on the Welcome table in the foyer of the church. Some CSI groups are season or weather limited so they will begin at appropriate times. The leaders can let you know their starting dates. Don't miss out on the fun, join a group this month!

Wendy Kindel 
Lay Ministry Coordinator

Library books for the month of February

"*Land of My Heart*" by Tracie Peterson

"*Coming Storm*" by Tracie Peterson

"*Awakening*" by Angela Hunt

"*Prairie Storm*" by Catherine Palmer

"*To Dream Anew*"



Delite Strouse,
Library Ministry

Thoughts From the Pastor . . .

tain rhythm and sense of permanence. In a sense, the past is always present. Thus words like *change* and *creativity* are enemies, since the church cannot imagine doing things differently. *Its goal is not so much to change the world as it is to know each other better.*" (Italics are mine.)

In terms I can understand it means that most of us, particularly in smaller churches, prefer life to remain the same, and the gauge we use is our own comfort and enjoyment. The first question is "How will this change effect me and my friends?" That's why we often resist change, because it will make me uncomfortable. We like the status quo. Our focus is inward and toward the past.

Rigorous churches, on the other hand, focus more outward and forward, rather than inward and backward. It is a difficult transition, but necessary.

"In a rigorous community the individuals are connected to each other by a collection of contracts for a common end. Vision and plans are embraced as members define their values based on their common productivity and success in reaching the community's goals. Their identity is determined more by the future than the past. Thus words like *change* and *creativity* challenge them to attempt greater things for God. *Their goal is to do their share to build God's kingdom.*" (Italics are mine.)

So you see, as we grow, we must make the transition from focusing on our needs and comfort to the needs of those outside the church. We move from looking inward to looking outward. It's a tough thing to do. After, all who cares more about me more than I?

Transition from a relational to a rigorous church is not easy. It means

that we put the needs of people who aren't even here yet ahead of our own. We look at ourselves as responsible for the spiritual welfare of others and put them ahead of ourselves. That's not easy. That's why Jesus said to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, then said we should love them as He loved us. He gave up all His own comforts so we could be saved. Where would we be if He decided to stay in Heaven, comfortable in His throne? Let's learn to make the transition from loving others as we love ourselves, to loving them as Christ loved us, and be willing to give up our comforts for the welfare of others.


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Brown Corners

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Happy Valentines Day

News



& Dates to Remember . . .



Quiz Team Practice

-Wednesday Nights 7-8:00 PM

February 2005 Meetings Tuesday, February 8th

7:00 PM.....Teams Meet
7:45 PM.....Prayer
8:15 PM...Ad Board Meets

Good Friday Service **Choir Practice**

Date: Starting February 6th
(every Sunday evening until Good Friday.)
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Clare Baptist Church

Alpha Weekend Away
February 25th, 26th & 27th

Children's Ministry Meeting

February 1st at 7:00 PM

Jr. High Party!

"Do you have the guts?"
February 12th from 6-9:00 PM

CSI Groups Being **Week of Feb. 7th**

It's not too late to join a CSI group or study.



Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:9,10