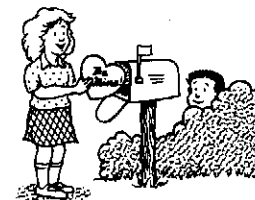


# The Church Organ



FEBRUARY

February 2012 / Volume 18, No. 2

## From Your Pastor's Pen

### Projections for 2012

*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom 15:5-6)*

The above verse is our prayer for Oak Lake for the year ahead. And it must become a central theme for our desires and our work as a church in the year ahead. The last couple of years have been ones that have been difficult for the whole church. The unity that we seek, and for which the elders have prayed and worked, has become rather a cacophony (a harsh discordant mixture of sounds rather than harmony). Therefore I am asking you as a church family to consider carefully this root of disharmony; and then to reject it and join together as one in seeking our one God's heart for unity among his people.

We must focus on God and not on the various issues that seek to divide rather than unite. Only as

we seek the Lord will we find his endurance and encouragement. And so we pray in faith believing that God has a greater stake in our unity than do we. Our God is one, and we are one in him. Therefore, we must ask that he as the one "who gives endurance and encouragement" will "grant us a spirit of unity" among ourselves. I would encourage each of us to consider where this spirit of unity comes from? It comes from God! Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:3: "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." But where does the spirit of disunity come from? Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:33: "God is not a God of disorder, but of peace." And Paul told the Galatian believers that "hatred, discord...selfish ambition, dissensions, factions..." all find their source in sinful flesh, and the flesh sets itself up against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. Remember Jesus' words concerning division: "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself cannot stand" (Mat. 12:25).

The question we face as a church is, are we going to let Satan come

in to our church and divide and destroy us so that the light goes out? Or are we going to join together and seek the God of endurance and encouragement to grant us, Oak Lake Church, a Spirit of unity? It is our purpose as leaders to lead this church to seek our God. That has been our message; and that remains our purpose until Christ is formed in each one of us.

We have been asked "to lead." And we desire to lead this church to unite as "you follow Christ Jesus." That is our desire that we, as God's people, together, follow Christ Jesus. And that is why the new banners for the year ahead will carry the singular message that needs to be our focus. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:2, "For I resolved to know

nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." Our existence as a church begins here. Our differences of opinion, our misdirected focus, and our resultant un-Christlike attitudes and actions must be laid right there at the foot of the cross. We must lay these down and together move forward as we follow Christ.

(Continued on back page.)

***"We must focus on God and not on the various issues that seek to divide rather than unite."***

# OAK LAKE DIGEST



Alice Baden  
4baden@gamil.com

**I**t's not too early to start thinking about camping season. Timberlake Ranch Camp offers camps throughout June and July. The earlier you register the more likely that you can get the camp you want. Please pick up a brochure from the foyer counter.



## OAK LAKE ACTIVITIES

**M**ark and Jeanne Brumbelow, our missionaries with Africa Inland Mission, will be with us Sunday morning, February 19. Mark will be speaking during the morning worship service. Be sure to be here to find out about the ministry Mark and Jeanne have in Africa. Oak Lake has been supporting the Brumbelows for many years.

**T**he Creative Fellowship Committee is planning a 2012 kick-off carry-in dessert time for Friday night, February 24 beginning at 6:30 PM. Please come, bring a dessert, and enjoy a relaxing time with your Oak Lake family.



## *A Life of Love and Peace*

Our life is love and peace and tenderness and bearing one with another, and not laying accusations one against another, and helping one another up with a tender hand, if there has been any slip or fall; waiting 'till the Lord gives sense and repentance if sense and repentance be wanting. Oh, to walk in this spirit, that ye may enjoy the Lord in sweetness, and walk sweetly, meekly, tenderly, peaceably and lovingly one with another.

--Isaac Pennington, 17<sup>th</sup> century Quaker poet

# FOCUS ON MISSIONS



The following is a portion of a letter written by Sue Newton, a missionary with Africa Inland Mission. (The same mission organization Mark and Jeanne Brumbelow serve with. See *Oak Lake Activities*.)

“The older I get, the more times I have watched something new turn old and eventually be discarded. The mirror tells me that my own body is doing the same thing! Wrinkles, sags, sun spots and unexplained aches – the apostle Paul calls it the ‘bondage of decay.’ So recently I have been savoring the words in Romans 7:6, ‘newness of the Spirit.’ While everything around us fades or falls apart, God’s Spirit is always new! It is not that Jesus was once a ‘new way’ that would someday become old and obsolete. There is a never ending, never disappointing, never changing newness in God. I will never wake up to find that God has faded, changed or worn out.

“There are times I get in a rut, feel fed up, and find my faith is dull. Often the problem lies with me – my own complacency or spending my energies on pleasing myself. But for all of us, there are times when pain and suffering invade our hearts through no fault of our own, and we wonder if anything will ever be how it was before. We look at the faded colors of our lives with remorse or regret. But thanks be to God! In Him is hope which will not be disappointed. In Him, our spirits are not only revived but made new like His. While I cannot stop my body from aging or be free from suffering, I am not destined to become an ‘old soul,’ I am daily a new creation, alive in the newness of the Spirit, heading for an inheritance that will never perish, spoil or fade.”

**From the Mission Field: Dennis and Cindy Wiens – SAT -7.** This is just a short reminder of what SAT-7 is and what they do. *Based in Cyprus, SAT-7 is a Middle East based Christian satellite television ministry broadcasting 24/7 throughout more than 70 countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe. The network supports five channels. SAT-7’s convergence of theology, technology and timeliness positions it for greater impact for such a time as this!*

## Branches on the Family Tree



A pet duck, Viet Nam, chicken strips, water buffalo, cone racing, kiddie rides, hard times, family times. These, and more, are all part of the Bridgmon's very full life.

Lee and Bev have been attending Oak Lake for 15 years. They first learned of Oak Lake through Greg Bartsch, who worked with Lee at Pfizer. Lee still is in the maintenance department at Pfizer where he has worked for 20 years. Before coming to Pfizer Lee owned and ran his own trucking company in Cook, Nebraska. Right now Bev is enjoying her time at home but has recently worked for Lincoln Public Schools in the kitchen – a job she enjoyed.

Both Lee and Bev grew up not too far from Lincon. Bev in Aurora and Lee in Cook. Bev has one brother, two sisters

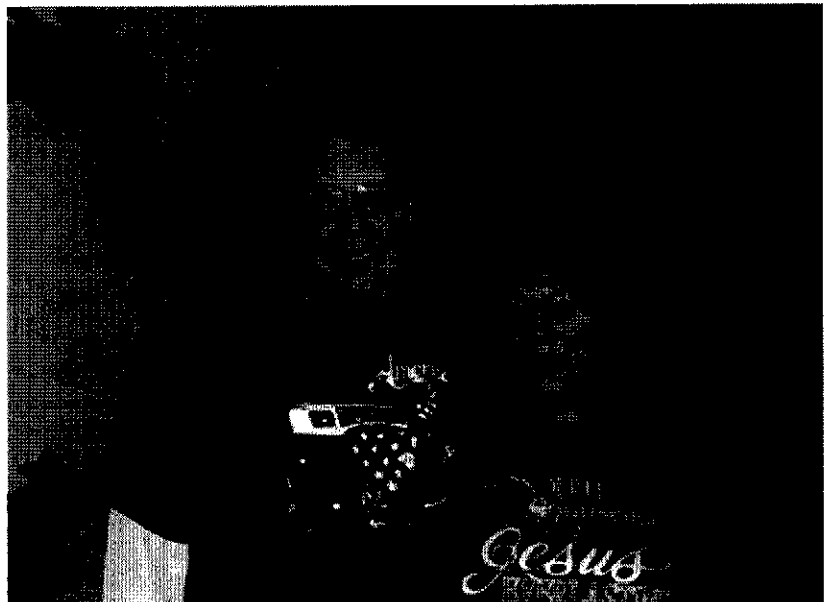
and a sister who passed away several years ago. Lee comes from a family with two brothers and one sister. Lee's mom still lives in the town where he grew up.

Spending time with the family – that is something really important to both Lee and Bev. Derick, their oldest son, and his wife Siarra live very close to “the folks.” They, along with younger brother Dillon, spend a lot of time together. They enjoy camping, eating ice cream, playing games and just hanging out together. Bev has very high praise for her daughter-in-law. She says that she and Lee agree that they could not have a better daughter-in-law – even if they had chosen her themselves. The kids all have jobs here in Lincoln. Derick is a manager at Woods Brothers Industry (they build water softeners). Dillon also works at Woods Brothers and Siarra is a hair stylist at Salon Bravo in the Highlands.

Bev is a good housekeeper – and it's a good thing. Their house is full of pets and a big part of their family. Tiger and Simba are cats, the beagles are named Copper and Shilo and the duck (yes, they have a duck!) is Aflac.

Besides spending time with the family Bev enjoys naps, cooking and baking, our women's Bible study and fellowship with other believers. She and Lee are on the Creative Fellowship Committee and are planning on coming up with a lot of “creative fellowshiping” ideas this year. The first one will be February 24. Stay tuned!

Lee and Bev have been married for 22 years. They met through Bev's sister who worked for Lee at his trucking company. Life has not always been easy for the Bridgmoms. Lee served in Viet Nam in the 70s – a very difficult time to be in the service. There have also been personal family trials, but the most difficult time in their lives was when they lost their first son, Dorman, to SIDS. He was just five months old. Bev has a picture of him that she carries in her Bible. She smiles and says, “I like having all of my children in church with me.”



Both Lee and Bev came to know the Lord after they moved to Lincoln and then started attending Oak Lake. Greg and Joy Bartsch have been influential in their walk with the Lord. Lee's favorite verse is John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Bev loves the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. It begins: “The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want.”

(Continued on back page.)

# Puzzle by Jim Hart

## Work for the Lord Colossians 1:23-24

Jim writes that he came up with the idea for this puzzle when he was attending a class entitled "Character," taught by Pastor Johnson, the new senior chaplain at Forrest City.



To solve the puzzle, open your Bible (the New International Version) to Colossians 1:23-24. Find all of the words that are at least four letters long. If a word is used more than once, it will be used in the puzzle more than once. Also find Colossians.

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# February 2012

## Oak Lake Evangelical Free Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
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Jason Masten  
Rick Hattan  
Cindy Wiens

*(Pastor's Pen, continued)*

And the second verse is found in Hebrews 12:2, *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..."* Jesus is the one who endured the cross for us, scorning the shame. Therefore I appeal to each and every one of us to turn our eyes on Jesus who unites us rather than on the things that have been seeking to divide us. Jesus Christ redeemed us to bring glory to himself by our words and our deeds, but when we give in to division, we cannot bring glory to him or redemption to the world. We have lost our message if God cannot redeem his people from their own divisions. I really think we need to take a deep breath and consider the outcome of our actions. If we say that we believe what the Scriptures say, then we better know what it says about how we relate to one another in the body of Christ and seek with God's help to pursue God's will. And will we allow God to be God over his church as he sees fit?

Why must we lay down the battles over what divides us, asking God to unite us together in following Christ Jesus? Because only then will we fulfill God's call on us as a Church *"that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."* And isn't that why we have been redeemed so that we can glorify the God of redemption? I would ask you to consider how dividing over issues and people can possibly be used to glorify God. The watching world around us is caused to blaspheme God when they see God's people at odds with one another. The unbelieving world which does not want to come to grips with a righteous and holy God, and which wants to feel secure in their sinfulness, is only confirmed in such when they see God's people divide from one another and speak evil of one another. Jesus prayed: *"I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and loved them even as you loved me."* We are called to peace and that peace begins right here. And it is incumbent on each one to take ownership of this in our own life. We can disagree with one another without becoming disagreeable.

We must remember our purpose which was written in our constitution from the beginning. We have three specific purposes that we must not lose sight of. First, we are a church that meets together to "exalt" God. We can go through all the motions of worship, but if our hearts are not right before God, and we are not loving one another as we are called to do, then our worship is nothing but *"a resounding gong, or a clanging cymbal"* regardless of our verbal claims.

The second purpose is to "edify" the body. Edification is the process of instruction and encouragement that builds up the body. Let us join together in building one another up as it says in Romans 14:19: *"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."*

The final purpose is to "evangelize." This really takes unity and love, for what message of hope and peace can we bring a hurting world if we are wounding and hurting one another in either word or deed? Surely God's glory and kingdom are more important than these things that have come to divide us. God has raised up Oak Lake to be a light, a place where people can come to know Christ, find forgiveness, and grow in grace. Let us get back to our roots and do these first things. That is the kind of church I want to lead, and that is the call I give you today. The only question remaining is will you follow our lead? --Pastor Dale

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*(Branches, contineud)*

Now, let's pick up a few things from the beginning. Lee rode a water buffalo in Viet Nam, their favorite restaurant is Texas Road House where Bev likes the chicken strips but give Lee a steak. Cone racing is something Lee and Bev would like to do again (you'll just have to ask them) and Bev and Siarra have enjoyed the kiddie rides at Walmart. It seems like you never know quite what's going to happen next with this family.

Lee and Bev have been active, not only on the Creative Fellowship Committee but also teaching, cleaning and helping out in so many ways. It is such a blessing to have the Bridgmans as a part of the Oak Lake family.