



Meridian Avenue Baptist Church

♦ EXALTING GOD ♦ EDIFYING BELIEVERS ♦ EVANGELIZING THE WORLD

The Messenger

September 2010

Getting to know you....

**Each person I
have featured in
Getting To Know
You now has a
special place in
my heart.
It makes a
tremendous
difference in our
worship
experience to be
surrounded by
people we *know*
and *love*.**

Recently ten people attended an Awana training meeting on a Monday evening. Joyce began the meeting and asked us to tell a little about ourselves. *Hmmm*, I thought. *We already know each other*. We all talked about how long we've been coming to church at MABC and the words 'church family' and 'church home' were used by almost everyone. Memories were shared. We talked about our interests and working with the Awana program.

It was comfortable talking about our church and what we enjoy. Even though we already knew each other, we were drawn closer by sharing with the group.

During the year I've worked as church secretary and have been putting out the newsletter, *The Messenger*, I have featured a different person, a couple or a group, on the front page in the *Getting to Know You* article. And every month people tell me they enjoy reading about and getting to know others better. [By the way, thank you for your kind comments].

How *do* we 'get to know' each other? How can we get to know each other better? You don't have to wait for me to write someone's story. Here are a few ideas I have to begin the process of getting to know one another. You'd better be sitting down, because idea #1 may be a shocker:

1) Sit in a different pew; sit in a different part of the church. You'll get to greet people you don't normally greet. Is it possible we get just a little too comfortable in the same place every Sunday? Sit on the far left and watch Tony play. Observe the service from a different point of view. It really does make a difference.

2) Are you uncertain or uncomfortable about approaching a person you don't know very well, or even at all? It's really simple. Walk up to them with a sincere smile, shake their hand and say, "Hi, my name is _____" They will reply with their name and a conversation will begin.

3) At church dinners, fellowship times, and other gatherings sit by someone you don't know very well. They will be delighted to get to know you better as well. Do you go out to eat after morning worship service? Consider inviting someone you haven't invited before. Perhaps an older couple, or a younger family. A church family consists of people of all ages and we can all learn from each other.

My hope and prayer is that each person will begin taking steps – even baby steps – toward getting to know each other better. It makes a tremendous difference in our worship experience to be surrounded by people we *know* and *love*. Be silent for a moment during a song...listen to the piano; the organ; listen to the men singing, then the women. And then listen to all of it together. What you hear is the combined voices of our family, worshipping together.

-- Cassie Woolard

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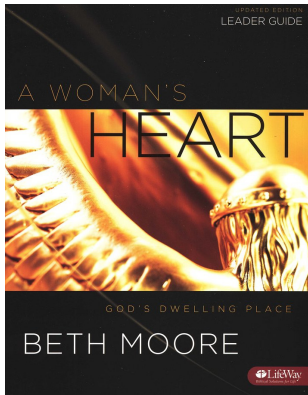
September

- 6 – Labor Day
- 8 – Fall Mid-Week activities Begin
- 10 – Central Region Prayer Day
- 14 – ABW Meeting
- 15 – Deadline to register for Annual Meeting
- 19 – ABW Sunday
- 25 – ABW Association Meeting at MABC
- 28 – ACES at Prairie Homestead



Women's Beth Moore Studies for Fall

A Woman's Heart



Morning and evening studies began Monday, August 29th, but it's not too late to begin attending either study.

Monday mornings: 10am
Monday evenings: 6:30pm

Will not meet Mon. Sept 6th (Labor Day)
Meetings will resume Monday September 13th.

August 1, 2010
Sunday School Attendance:
Morning Worship Attendance:
 Offerings, General \$3,927.06
 Offerings, Designated \$ 655.94
 ABMen June \$59.47
 ABWomen June \$59.47
 Communion Fund \$229.00
 Pastor – Medical Ins. July \$250.00
 School Supplies \$20.00
 Transportation Bible Class \$13.00
 Tri C Class \$25.00
 Cap Bldg Repair Fund June \$237.88

August 8, 2010
Sunday School Attendance: 49
Morning Worship Attendance: 79
 Offerings, General \$1,754.35
 Offerings, Designated \$ \$14.00
 Communion Fund \$14.00

August 15, 2010
Sunday School Attendance: 42
Morning Worship Attendance: 89
 Offerings, General \$2743.10
 Offerings, Designated \$200.00
 Campership \$10.00
 Communion Fund \$140.00
 Awana \$30.00
 Dillon's Certificates \$20.00

August 22, 2010
Sunday School Attendance: 39
Morning Worship Attendance: 57
 Offerings, General \$1,555.00
 Offerings, Designated \$230.18
 Communion Fund \$10.00
 Business Meeting meal 08-15-10 \$80.18
 Dillon's certificates \$140.00

August 29, 2010
Sunday School Attendance: 41
Morning Worship Attendance: 79
 Offerings, General \$1,304.18
 Offerings, Designated \$386.76
 ABMen July \$63.38
 ABWomen July \$63.38
 Women's Bible Study \$260.00
 Cap. Building Repair Fund July \$253.53



The World Mission Offering will be collected during the month of September.



◆ Library News ◆

Since two of our Sunday school classes are studying Romans, here are two award-winning books about grace.

What's So Amazing About Grace? by Philip Yancey was voted EPCA Book of the Year

- Grace is the church's great distinctive. It's the one thing the world cannot duplicate and the one thing it craves above all else--for only grace can bring hope and transformation to a jaded world.
- If grace is God's love for the undeserving, then what does it look like in action? If Christians are its sole dispensers, then how are we doing at lavishing grace on a world that knows far more of cruelty and forgiveness than it does of mercy? Can grace survive in the midst of such atrocities as the Nazi holocaust? Can grace triumph over the brutality of the Ku Klux Klan? Should any grace be shown to serial killers?
- Grace does not excuse wrong, but it treasures the wrongdoer. True grace is shocking, scandalous. It shakes our convictions with its insistence on getting close to evil and touching it with mercy and hope.
- Yancey searches for the presence of grace in his own life and in the church. He asks how Christians can contend graciously with moral issues that threaten all they hold dear

Lord, I Need Grace to Make It Today by Kay Arthur won the EPCA Gold Medallion Book Award

- There are times when we all wonder if we'll make it in life—and if it's worth even trying. Feelings of unworthiness and guilt over past sins, times of spiritual weakness and inadequacy--the burdens seem overwhelming. Don't give up. God's grace is available freely and lavishly for all who would take it.

If you are looking for the covering of God's grace, Kay Arthur will guide you through the Word of God. Discover how to appropriate God's grace for every situation and every emotion you must face.

“ notable quotes ”

- “We follow Him [Jesus] because of who He is; because of what He has done; because He can use us.

“I follow Him to carry on the work of His Kingdom; making known the Kingdom of God and *to be His compassion and kindness in the world.*” --Pastor Jim, August 15th sermon “Great Crowds Followed Him.”

- Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant.” --Robert Lois Stevenson

• “All my life I wondered which way to go
And all the while Christ whispered but I didn't know
And every day I wandered lost and alone
And in everything I wavered without Him to show me the way

“And all the time He had waited for me to see
The love he demonstrated on Calvary's tree
And while I hesitated He still believed
On a day He designated I'd fall to my knees and I'd finally see

“For God so loved the world that He gave
His one and only begotten Son
That whosoever believeth in Him
Should not die, but have life

“And all this time He's been waiting for you to see
The love He demonstrated on Calvary's tree
And while you're hesitating He still believes
On a day He's designated you'll fall to your knees and you'll pray.

“He still believes.”

Lyrics and music by Jason Moore “He Still Believes” (printed w/permission)

Wednesday Night Activities Resume September 8th



Join us on Wednesday nights
at 5:45pm as we eat and fellowship together.

Following the meal, we have
activities for all ages, followed
by adult choir practice.

