

# FBC NEWSLETTER

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## MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES TO BEGIN AGAIN

It has been many months since these two fellowship groups have met in person, and we look forward to beginning anew these much-needed ministries. Truly, God has created us to be relational beings and fellowship with His people. We will do so in a wise manner and adhere to safety guidelines. Men's Ministries, formerly known as the "Timothy Team" will meet for breakfast, prayer and Bible study on Saturday, August 1st at 8:00am; Women's Ministries will have a potluck-style picnic on Monday, August 3rd at 6:00pm at the Sweeney Shelter at the Waukon City Park. Ladies, please bring salads and desserts to share!

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### Communion served August 2

Communion will be celebrated Sunday, August 2 during Morning Worship, in-person and/or virtually. As before, Communion kits will be distributed to the in-person service. If you are participating at home, we request that you provide your own elements as we partake together.



Men's Breakfast | Men's Ministries

### In This Issue

- Men's & Women's Ministries to begin
- Communion Service
- Let's Get to know missionaries Richard & Janet Parker
- FBC Birthdays & Anniversaries
- LifeServe Blood Drive



Retired missionaries, Dick & Janet Parker

## LET'S GET TO KNOW BETTER MISSIONARIES RICHARD & JANET PARKER

Veteran missionary, Richard (Dick) Parker is known to our church family through Pastor Duane. Dick is Pastor Duane's uncle and has served on the mission field since 1957! He has recently retired to FL with his lovely bride and will gladly tell you that one never "retires" from serving the Lord! Dick is also parent to Rick (& Kim) Parker and Gary (& Sandy) Parker—both sons and families are serving the Lord in the northern parts of Brazil, South America.

Dick came to know the Lord as his Savior at age 8 or 9 in the Ladysmith, WI area at the Riverside Mission church—it was just a group of farmers that met together by the banks of the Flambeau River. His grandmother was his first Sunday School teacher! She had a quote in her home above a couch which read, "Only one life 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last," and that deeply impressed Dick. He graduated from Bruce High School and attended Prairie Bible Institute in Canada where he met Harriet Palmer. The couple married in June of 1956 and joined Wyciffe Bible Translators shortly thereafter. They served with Wycliffe for 18 years, and then decided to return to Ladysmith to take over the family farm. During that time, they started Pastor Duane's home church, Northland Bible Church. They farmed for 10 years, during which sons Gary & Rick became closer friends (as cousins) to the Duane Smith family. Dick & Harriet prayerfully decided to return to Brazil in February 1989 and began the Word of Life Institute in

## Richard's advice...

"My thought for young people—seek the Lord and let Him guide you and be students of the Word of God. I like the King James version of 2 Timothy 2:15, 'Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.'

We must study the Word of God and apply it to our lives. I would advise young people to stay in the Word, search the Scriptures daily, and hide them in your heart that you may not sin against God."

Dick continues, "Something for young people today considering full-time ministry is to go by faith & trust; go with the mindset that it's not necessary to have all the luxuries of life. Be content as God gives great joy and fulfillment as we serve Him."

"Don't try to figure things out for yourself; I was never prepared for anything that the Lord called me to, but leaned wholly upon Him. The things came to pass because the Lord did the job—not me! Remember, trust and faith go hand in hand!"

## Janet's beautiful wedding dress



## A little more about Janet...

Janet is a farm girl from the Green Bay, WI area. She was raised by Lutheran and Catholic parents. "But as a Catholic, I had no peace or joy and I was searching even though I had been educated at a private Catholic school." When Janet attended University of WI (River Falls), she met believers who witnessed to her and she began to see her need of a Savior. "After a year of struggling spiritually, I reeled into Jesus Christ and asked Him to forgive my sins, come in, and take over my life." Shortly after, Janet decided to go to Pillsbury Baptist Bible College where she met her first husband, Paul Sarbaugh. They eventually pastored at the Ladysmith Baptist Church, WI. "I knew the Parker family and even had one of their boys in my Sunday School class!"

"Richard and I are passionate about witnessing and sharing the Gospel—and especially to the poor," Janet states. "My advice to young people is to let the Lord guide you by faith, and not lean upon your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path."

## Cont.

the Amazon area of northern Brazil. It was discovered that Harriet had cancer and did treatments in the USA, but, sadly, she passed away in February of 1992, 20 days before the Bible Institute began. Dick continued to serve as a widower but then felt the Lord nudging him on to begin a new ministry—the boat ministry—in a neighboring state of Manaus in 1994. This was a boat ministry, helping peoples along the Amazon with food, education, health, and sharing the Gospel. Dick then turned over the leadership of the Bible Institute in Belem, Para, to his son, Gary.

On one of his travels in Brazil, he met the lovely Cleide, and they were married for 20 years serving the Lord on the boat ministry, which his son, Rick now oversees. The couple saw many people in the villages come to know the Lord as their Savior, and many medical teams from the USA have helped medically treat villagers along the Amazon. Sadly, Cleide passed away in October of 2017 due to complications with her lungs. Dick returned to the USA and was visiting his sister, Charlotte, in Ladysmith when he reconnected with Janet Melchert Sarbaugh. Janet had also lost her husband who pastored a Baptist church in Ladysmith 40 years prior. A widow of 13 years, she and Dick connected on Facebook. "It was through Facebook that Richard saw me talking to his sister in Ladysmith. He tapped on it and gave me a call. Shortly thereafter, I went to WI to visit my son and of course, Charlotte and Richard. After seeing him just a few times, he suggested we pray together and independently about us getting married. Gasp!" exclaimed Janet. The couple were married January of 2019 and had a six-month honeymoon in Brazil, traveling down the Amazon River, across the country of Brazil, and eventually, across the USA as well. They settled in a Christian retirement home for missionaries in FL and are living "happily ever after!"

"I (Janet) will add that the Lord gave me such a great love for Richard that it was not hard at all (to say "yes" to marry him). I could add that the dress I wore to our wedding was reasonably priced (see picture—left) and when we got it home it said, 'Richards' on the label! The lady in the dressing room—where I purchased the dress from—was from Brazil. Of course, she spoke Portuguese! I love all these 'God-touches!'"

Not one to rest, Dick began to see the need to reach a people group that are very poor in FL and live in the woods, with no water or electricity—and sleep under the trees. These homeless people desperately need the Lord, and Dick & Janet are actively beginning to reach these people for Christ. "Trust and faith go hand in hand," asserts Dick. "We need to let the Lord guide us, and when He calls, He will supply the needs. I never could do it on my own, but the Lord provides and it is accomplished because of Him." Dick's aim is to take the Gospel where nobody else has gone, and be the first to share the Gospel with these people. "No one else is trying to reach them. Some churches give out food, but don't really make an effort to win them to Christ." Dick challenges churches across the USA to have a real heart to pray and reach out boldly to the lost—so much more as we see The Day approaching.

"We are thrilled with what God has done in our lives and can't even begin to tell you how He has blessed us with a lovely home in a wonderful community with believers all around here at Word of Life, Florida," Janet states. "Trust and obey, is what God would have us do. He delights to shower us with His blessings as we are obedient to Him."

*"Trust & Faith go hand in hand..."*

## Aug / Sept Birthdays

m = missionary

8/4	Kathy Van Ruler	9/1 Margery Lange	9/16 Maxine Bloxham
8/5	Bryan Bollman	9/1 Michael Roth, Sr.	9/16 Terri Lyford
8/7	Kaden Colsch	9/1 Morgan Van Ruler	9/17 Aislinn Goettel
8/9	Denise Beyer	9/2 Claire Snitker	9/17 Jane Miene
8/11	Clayton Kelley	9/4 Steve Kiley	9/18 Nick Tilleraas
8/16	Brent Beyer	9/7 Ethan Kelley	9/22 Betty Jepsen
8/23	Sharon White	9/8 Dallas Tilleraas	9/22 Helen Johnson
8/30	Dan Schmitt	9/9 Cindy Kuhens	9/24 Seth Stock
		9/9 Russell Roth	9/26 Wayne Fish
		9/15 Jane Johnson	9/30 Pam Kerndt

## Aug / Sept Anniversaries

August 1	Dan & Brenda Schmitt
August 2	Ron & Claudine Glynn (m)
August 18	Paul & Jann Vander Mey (m)
August 19	Michael, Jr. & Jordyn Roth
August 19	Mark & Iliana DeRemer
August 24	Bob & Sheri Erickson
September 7	Randy & Kathy Van Ruler
September 10	Philip & Jill Colsch
September 10	Steve & Deb Kiley
September 20	Paul & Kristie Roeder

## Contact Us

### First Baptist Church

614 Rossville Road  
Waukon, IA 52172

(563) 568.2225

[fbcwaukon@gmail.com](mailto:fbcwaukon@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.firstbaptistchurchwaukon.com](http://www.firstbaptistchurchwaukon.com) or YouTube

### LIFESERVE BLOOD DRIVE

The next blood drive will be held at FBC on Monday, August 3, 12N—5pm and is by appointment only: #800.287.4903.

There will be additional screening due to COVID-19 and a mask is required while donating blood.

LifeServe Blood Center is a blood collection organization providing blood and blood products to hospital patients in need. LifeServe Blood Center holds mobile blood drives in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota and has seven donation centers.

Volunteer blood donors can give whole blood, double red cells, plasma or platelets to help save the lives of local hospital patients.

**GIVE LOCALLY**

**SAVE A LIFE**